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The GEM
News, Sport, Letters, Features, What's On, Jobs, Motors....

The Glamorgan GEM

"Your ORIGINAL priceless weekly newspaper"
The area's longest serving Community Newspaper
Established 1983

Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/11 - **42,235**
(GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2012

A supermarket with a different recipe.

We've opened a fresh new Waitrose in Cowbridge and we're quite unlike other supermarkets. Our customers often say that shopping with us is different from shopping anywhere else. They say they find the quality of our food and the standard of our service higher than in other supermarkets. In fact, our customers have voted us Britain's favourite Food and Grocery Retailer for seven years running*, and we hope that you'll feel the same.

Turn the page to read about the special things we put into the Waitrose mix.

Your fresh new shop is now open on Birds Lane. To find out more about what makes us different visit us at waitrose.com

Waitrose
waitrose.com

*Source: Verdict Consumer Satisfaction Index 2012

Partnership. It's our secret ingredient.

At Waitrose, we call ourselves "Partners", because everyone who works here owns a share of the business. When you shop at Waitrose you'll notice the difference this makes, because we all care personally that you are looked after well. Many of us choose to train as specialists in fish, meat, wine or cheese and our passion and knowledge can help turn your meal into something special. So if you'd like a recommendation, you can ask an expert.

All things nice.

We believe that few things in life are more important than good food, and that eating well is one of life's great pleasures. But it's not just the quality of our food that sets it apart. It's the way we buy it, too. We treat all our farmers and producers with integrity and courtesy, whatever their size and wherever they're based. All our suppliers meet the highest standards of sustainability and animal welfare, too.

And we're closer than other supermarkets to the grass roots of food production, because we have our very own farm – the Leckford Estate in Hampshire. There we produce juicy English Cox's apples, mushrooms, milk and wheat for flour, all of which finds its way onto the shelves or into the chillers at Waitrose.

Becoming part of the community.

Even before we opened the doors to your new Waitrose, we were putting down roots so we can be part of what makes Cowbridge thrive. For example, we recently supported the Cowbridge Food & Drinks Festival. And we're championing local suppliers, looking for the best products from your area to stock on our shelves.

Your fresh new branch is open, so you'll be able to play a part too. Our Community Matters scheme offers financial support to local projects and charities, and when you shop at Waitrose you can help decide which local causes we support.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2012

LEFT: Rob Waite, manager of Waitrose, has been looking forward to welcoming customers to the new store, which opens today (Thursday).

MANAGER 'EXCITED' OVER NEW VENTURE

BY the time GEM readers pick up this newspaper, the new Waitrose foodstore in Cowbridge will have been opened by Vale MP Alun Cairns. The official ceremony was scheduled for 8am today (Thursday) – and branch manager Rob Waite told The GEM that he was keen to welcome the first customers.

The new shop, Waitrose's eighth in Wales, has created 144 jobs in the local area, with all employees becoming partners in the John Lewis Partnership.

Alun Cairns told The GEM: "I'm really pleased to welcome Waitrose to Cowbridge."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

'THREE CHEERS FOR THE FESTIVAL!'

Another Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival is in the books, and much like the others, the event was a huge success, with people in their thousands coming to the town to sample a variety of goodies. See our four-page supplement, starting on page 24.

Tractor Boys help local girl Elena

A six-year-old local girl was the centre of attention last Sunday when the Tractor Boys of Aberthin held a charity run around the Vale.

Elena Wyatt suffers from a rare genetic condition – only one other Welsh child has it – and the day was intended to raise awareness.

For the full story and pictures of the event, turn to pages 5 and 6.

Armistice Day parade plans

THE Armistice Day parade takes place in Cowbridge on Sunday, November 11, and those taking part will assemble behind the town hall at 10.20am.

The parade will march to the War Memorial for a short service, and two-minute silence at 11am, followed by wreath laying.

The parade will then march to Holy Cross Church, and after the special service, return to the town hall for the Salute.

Legion spokesman Roy Williams said: "All ex-servicemen and women are invited to join the parade as our numbers are naturally decreasing. Membership of the Royal British Legion is not necessary.

"Your attendance will help ensure continued representation on this important day."

Garden of Remembrance

THE Garden of Remembrance in the grounds of Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, is now available to accept Remembrance crosses.

These can be found in most shops in the town, along with poppies.

All systems go for the Reindeer Parade!

COWBRIDGE Reindeer Parade will take place this year on Sunday, November 25.

Traditionally, huge crowds attend the event, with Father Christmas and real reindeer taking part in a procession through the town.

Many local Cowbridge businesses plan to open to give visitors the chance to do some festive shopping after the procession.

The parade has been billed as in association with the Bridgend and Vale Agency of NFU Mutual, and will start at 12 noon.

The GEM will publish further details on road closure arrangements nearer the time.

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'New LDP must protect Wenvoe'

THE Wenvoe Residents' Action Group (WRAG) would like to respond to comments made by Redrow in The GEM (October 4 edition).

We would like to point out that the Vale Council had identified land to the west of Port Road as "*suitable for residential development*" as part of the LDP only from Phase 3 (2021 onwards) – if all other more suitable sites in the Vale had already been used and if there was still a pressing housing need.

This application for outline planning permission is clearly opportunistic in the extreme. No one from Redrow has approached WRAG to ask what villagers' concerns are.

We understand that the revised LDP is due to be published next month – but, sadly, despite Labour's encouraging pledges before the May elections, we now have no confidence that the plan will have been properly taken "*back to the drawing-board*", as promised by Labour earlier this year.

We are sincerely hoping that the Vale Council is taking its responsibilities as seriously as it should.

The Planning Inspectorate report of 1999 stated that Wenvoe needed protection from "*inappropriate development in the countryside*"; and that *"any further residential development of Wenvoe should be strictly limited to the area within its settlement boundary*".

The Inspectorate further recommended that *"the area surrounding Wenvoe, outside the settlement boundary, should be designated green belt*".

If recommendations by the Planning Inspectorate are simply to be disregarded when the council so chooses (which is what has happened for the last 13 years), what is the point in having them there in the first place?

We very much hope that sense will prevail in the forthcoming months, in the council rejecting the current Redrow planning application, and in removing the site entirely from the LDP when it is re-published, and including a green belt for the eastern Vale.

Elizabeth Mildred
WRAG, Wenvoe.

Blame the Government!

I AM writing following a letter in last week's edition; headlined '*Vale must challenge Assembly*'.

Whilst I agree that the Labour Council group's pledge to scrap the LDP was a cynical ploy ahead of the local government elections, I must stress that it is not the 'Assembly' that has imposed such stringent housing targets on the Vale of Glamorgan Council – rather it was the Welsh Government.

This is an important distinction. As Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, I have consistently challenged the Welsh Government to justify these targets and to explain the formula by which they were calculated.

I have also called for a 12-month moratorium on the LDP in the Vale which would give the council an opportunity to go back to residents and engage in a proper consultation over the type and scale of development that they wish to see.

Vitally, this would give the Welsh Government minister a chance to explain the excessive and seemingly arbitrary housing targets.

If the Labour-run Vale Council were to join me in this call and lobby their colleagues in the Welsh Government for a moratorium on the LDP, then they would prove that their pledge wasn't just cynical electioneering.

That would be a result for the people of the Vale.

Andrew RT Davies AM
(Leader of the Opposition – Welsh Conservatives)

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!
We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk

New airport needed to put Wales on the map!

IT was with interest that I read the letter from Mr Luke Nicholas recently published in The GEM, regarding the status of Cardiff Airport – '*Assembly must have a stake in the airport*'.

What he says is perfectly true and the current owners seem to be showing little interest in developing or investing in the airport further.

It is not surprising to hear that Bristol Airport is booming, with flights from there being far less expensive than those from Cardiff Airport. Cardiff Airport's location can hardly be described as convenient, either, with it being closer to Barry and around 12 miles from Cardiff city centre. Even more from the M4 corridor!

I personally do not feel that flying into Cardiff Airport can be considered a pleasurable experience, or a good advertisement for Wales – given its current location and status.

However, I do agree that political leadership does need to be taken; but this needs to be decisive and not simply by pouring public money into an airport that is not just withering on the vine (*so aptly put by Mr Nicholas*) but seems to be quite clearly about to fall off the vine!

I appreciate we live in austere times, but if anything is to be considered, it should be to look ahead at the bigger picture on the future development and inward investment for Wales.

Maybe it is time to think of building a new 'state-of-the-art' airport in a more accessible and convenient location for the M4 corridor, perhaps somewhere between Cardiff and Newport – where there seems to be plenty of land available.

After all, if billions of pounds can be spent on a one-off event like the Olympic Games, why can't Wales have a new airport to put it on the map?

Andrew Small,
Cowbridge.

Fly-grazing: *Time for the Assembly to take action*

YOUR correspondent's frustration (GEM letters, last week) at the lack of identification of the culprits of the recent fly-grazing incident in Colwinston, suggests that she is unaware of the difficult background to such events.

These were highlighted by two in-depth reports on BBC Wales News on Thursday and Friday last.

These reports confirmed my own experience where aggression and intimidation were very apparent.

Indeed, there was evidence of subsequent retaliation as a result of complaints from Colwinston residents.

Notwithstanding this, the authorities were pro-active in seeking evidence and took rapid action to deal with the mess which resulted from the incident.

It is, however, clear from the BBC report that this is a widespread and serious matter which requires multi-agency – indeed, Welsh Government, action.
(Name and address supplied)

Heads must roll over the wasted millions...

HOW is it that this UK Government can be allowed to waste our money, (taxpayers' money), on projects that are total failures?

Nick Cleggs' alternative vote fiasco put some £90million down the tubes, and now we have this rail franchise calamity, whereby it is estimated that the cost to us (the taxpayer) will be around over £40million.

Why have no heads of Government been sacked for sheer gross incompetence? If we underpay our taxes, HMRC claw back the money, yet if Government ministers waste millions of our pounds, nothing is done.

It's about time this Government was brought to account.

They must not be allowed to waste our money and get away with it any longer. As Cameron is the head, he should resign with immediate effect.

D Radford, Barry

Just what kind of a nation are we?

IT is a historical fact, that 100 years ago, the British Conservative Party desperately opposed the efforts of the Liberal Government to introduce unemployment benefit and the old age pension for the first time.

Mrs Thatcher waged war on the miners, at vast national cost, and on the unemployed poor, and half of the population applauded, because they were not themselves adversely affected.

Today, George Osborne intends to cut the living standards of the babies of the unemployed, if the baby is the third or fourth in the family – a short while after he has cut the income tax of millionaires – because he believed that this financial inducement was essential for the well-being of the nation.

What kind of nation have we created? Now we make war on babies.

Neville Westerman,
Brynna

Consultation and LDP in the Vale

WHAT an astonishing claim from Coun Probert in her letter: 'Vale's new LDP will set out plans for the next 15 years' *(The GEM, October 18)*.

She said: "*No-one in the ward, Illtyd, knew about the previous Tory deposit LDP …. until we told them*." We suspect many Labour candidates were unaware of the draft LDP until they read our election leaflets.

Let us recap on the sequence of events: FocusBARRY supporters have been campaigning on this issue since 2007, especially following the Labour/Plaid/Llantwit First cabinet decision to endorse the strategy in December of that year.

The LDP has been discussed at many FocusBARRY meetings: indeed, we arranged two special meetings and invited members of the public to attend them, the last in Illtyd Ward, on March 2 this year.

By then, the proposal for the land at Weycock Cross had been included in the draft and, because of the importance we placed on this matter, our members paid for an independent planning consultant to address our meeting.

In contrast, the council's consultation was the usual disappointing process.

Labour election leaflets for Barry and Illtyd Ward did not mention the LDP and then, with just a week to go, Labour advertised in a full page spread in The GEM that they would scrap the LDP.

John Donovan, James Osborne
(Illtyd Independent candidates and FocusBARRY supporters)

Questions from FoE

THE next meeting of Barry&Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, November 6, at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Given global warming, which has produced Hurricane Sandy, devastating the Caribbean and New York; and given world-wide flooding and drought, from the Phillipines to Wales, Barry&Vale FoE wonder about the sustainability of Barry Waterfront and proposals for more green field housing in Rhoose and Wenvoe.

Barry&Vale FoE will be inviting local politicians to discuss environmental concerns, at a meeting on December 4 – Severn Barrage and incinerators, or more alternative energy and windfarms?

Barry&Vale FoE hope for a good Yuletide response from politicians who purport to be environmentalists.

Keith Stockdale,
(Barry&Vale FoE co-ordinator)

Too much *'PR-speak'* on Penarth Esplanade

THERE are fine words but little action in the ongoing saga of Penarth's well-loved Esplanade, which remains in a continued state of dereliction and is still suffering a lack of attention.

The rhetoric from both the Vale Council and the site's owners recently was pure 'PR-speak', and showed no definite plan of action to address the issue of a derelict building site in the middle of a prime conservation area, which is now in its third season of decay.

Whilst I recognise the difficulties the Vale Council may have in dealing with a developer who has not given any sign of real progress, other than putting up a few pretty posters of the proposed development, and enclosing the site with high hoardings, they have not now, or indeed previously, done much to encourage the development to either commence, or be sold on to another buyer - with the benefit of the existing planning consent.

Council spokespeople may put out soothing words to the public, but the reality is that businesses along the seafront have suffered now for three years or more, and the public are heartily sick of seeing an abandoned site with no trace of action being taken.

Coupled with another nearby property in Bridgeman Road, which has been gradually falling to pieces for five years or more without any restoration taking place, the council has a real problem on its hands, which the current administration seems powerless to address, despite its election promises to '*listen to the people of Penarth*'.

Coun Anthony Ernest, Penarth

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL NOVEMBER 8)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
01 Thur	07.24	9.5	19.38	9.3
02 Fri	07.57	9.3	20.11	9.2
03 Sat	08.28	9.1	20.47	8.9
04 Sun	09.01	8.7	21.21	8.5
05 Mon	09.39	8.4	22.04	8.1
06 Tues	10.26	8.0	22.51	7.7
07 Wed	11.19	7.7		
08 Thur	00.09	7.6	12.45	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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MEMORIAL DEDICATED TO OCTAVIA HILL...

Cowbridge couple attend service dedicated to one of the country's pioneers

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

ABOVE: Pam and Roy Jones attended a service which was held to dedicate a memorial to pioneer Octavia Hill.

A COUPLE from Cowbridge took part in a celebration of the life of National Trust founder, Octavia Hill, in Westminster Abbey on October 22.

Roy and Pam Jones were able to honour a remarkable, pioneering woman who was a conservationist, an artist, a teacher and a social reformer, who died 100 years ago.

Roy told The GEM: "We are members of the National Trust and in May we received an email giving us the chance to take part in a draw to attend a service dedicating a memorial to her.

"We already knew it was the 100th anniversary of Octavia Hill's death.

"We were lucky in the draw and received invitations through the post.

"We've been members of the trust for three years."

Pam said: "The membership proves handy, because if it rains while on holiday, we always know there is somewhere to look around."

Locally, Roy and Pam have visited a number of attractions such as the Welsh Folk Museum, Big Pit in Blaenavon, Southgate, at Three Cliffs Bay, and Dinefwr Castle in the Gower, and they stress that for people with a love of heritage and culture, membership of the National Trust is a good investment.

Cut in stone – the memorial to one of this country's great visionaries, Octavia Hill..

The couple caught the coach up to Victoria Station, London at 6.30am, and headed for the underground.

Roy said: "On the underground, we were speaking to a man and said we were heading for Westminster and he replied: '*You're not going to Octavia Hill's memorial service are you*?' He was the chairman of the Kent branch of the National Trust."

Roy and Pam accompanied their new acquaintance to the Methodist Central Hall near the Abbey, where they enjoyed refreshments prior to the service.

Pam said: "The abbey was full for the service and the choir was very impressive."

Simon Jenkins, the chairman of the National Trust, offered the memorial for dedication, commenting:

"*Her name is included today amongst the pantheon of great women and men who have made a difference in our land and world.*"

Dame Fiona Reynolds, director-general of the National Trust, also paid tribute to Octavia Hill's work.

Today, the trust protects more than 300 historic properties.

Among the people who read testimonies were Wyn Davies, the warden of Dinefwr, and Julia Bradbury, who was winner of the People's Champion Octavia Hill Award 2012.

Roy said: "It took three quarters of an hour at the end of the service to be able to get a glimpse of the plaque and leave the abbey."

Afterwards, Roy and Pam were also treated to a private tour of Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.

Maria Lyn boosts the Rotarians' charities

THE Rotary Club of Cowbridge held a very successful evening at Cowbridge School on October 20, when the whole evening was given over to talented vocalist, Maria Lyn.

MARIA LYN

She entertained the audience with a selection of songs from West End musicals and other well-loved songs.

She has a great sense of humour and brought her show into the audience with numbers like Shirley Bassey's 'Don't Stop'.

This was balanced with slow, atmospheric numbers such as Sondheim's 'Send in the Clowns', where she showed just how well she could play the piano.

She even offered to give half of her CD profits in the interval to Rotary charities. This turned out to be a great night's entertainment, especially knowing that all the money raised, around £1,000, will be going to help charities local, national and international.

Many thanks to all involved, especially Cowbridge Comprehensive School, for their generous help in supporting this event.

AB

Insight into wildlife crime

BONT FAEN WI NEWS

SEPTEMBER was recruitment month for Women's Institutes, and membership has increased by five over the last few months.

The speaker for October was detained by work commitments, so the meeting started with the business section.

It is quite busy at the moment, with a number of members undertaking the strenuous walk from Ystradowen, the social evening to the Big Screen on October 25, and the Bordervale Link meeting hosted by Llanharry on October 31.

Today (November 1), members will perfect the decorations for the Holy Cross Christmas Tree Festival and the Federation Festival in Margam on December 5.

Members will attend the Council meeting in Porthcawl on November 5 and the Remembrance Parade in Cowbridge on November 11.

One of the members will be performing in the Federation Pantomime on November 21-22, and we will be going along to support her. A team has also entered the Rotary Quiz.

Members were able to sign up for future events, such as the Federation walks in January/February to celebrate the 90th anniversary, the Christmas meal, (which is held in January) and darts in February to, hopefully, put together a team for the Federation event at the end of February.

They were also able to bring and buy books.

The speaker was worth waiting for: PC Mark Goulding had returned to speak on his work in wildlife and environmental crime.

A rather emotional and disturbing subject, but one we should all be aware of.

He ended his talk with some light-hearted stories which left members chuckling and far more knowledgeable about the world we live in.

Next month's speaker will talk on Women's Aid.

Unfortunately, the next meeting clashes with voting, so it will be held in the Banqueting Hall of the Duke at 8pm on Thursday, November 15.

The meeting will return to the Lesser Hall the following month. **JJ**

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Bridge news

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club, Monday October 22 (19 pairs):

1st. Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 85.06 per cent; 2nd. Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 59.94; 3rd.= Ray Smith & Gwynne Maddox 58.81; 3rd.= Vida Halford & Glyn Williams 58.81; 5th.= Jane Brook & Wendy Williams 57.39; 5th.= John Henson & Geoff Tinkler 57.39.

Please note that there is no club meeting on Monday, November 5, when the Children in Need simultaneous pairs competition event will be held.

BS

BRIDGE RESULTS

COWBRIDGE and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian) results for October 23:

1. Barbara and Colin Easterbrook 60 per cent; =2 Pam Higgs and Sylvia Phillips 59; =2 Dot Isaac and Diane Lewis 59; 3. Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker 58; 4.Ann Miller and Judy Springett 57.

AH

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Steps fund

A LETTER of thanks has gone to all the kind people of Treoes and Llangan who have given so generously to the Saron vestry steps restoration fund.

The steps are now fully restored and the vestry is easily accessible to all members of the community.

Once again, a big thank you from Friends of Saron, Mrs Jill Ham, Joan Thomas, Janet Day and Branwen Clarke.

Wednesday club appeal

NEW members of Saron vestry Wednesday club are needed, particularly singers.

If you can help, go along to the next Wednesday evening meeting. Everyone will be assured of a warm welcome.

Telephone Jill Ham on 01656 663693 for more details.

Hallowe'en party

LOCALS and visitors at Treoes attended the Hallowe'en party held in the village hall on Saturday last – and it was a real family event.

I understand a Hallowe'en party also took place on Saturday evening in the Llangan and St Mary Hill hall, but I am unable to comment on this as I have not had any feedback.

St Canna's

SUNDAY, October 28 was the last service at St Canna's conducted by Canon Val Hamer.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the service, but my good wishes go with her for a happy retirement.

We will all miss her.

Llangan school

THE school reopens on Monday, November 5 and on November 8, years 5-6 will visit Cardiff Castle.

On November 9, Warburtons bread representatives will be working with years 3-4.

Outdoor project

PARENTS of Llangan school are asked for their help on November 10.

The school is planning to develop an area along the side of the building as a flora and fauna investigation area.

Time and energy permitting, an area could be cleared for a veggie patch and a wooden fence would need to be built.

If you can help in any way, please contact Sue Stevens on 07789 067950.

41 Club treated to tour of Tim Vaughan Racing

Trainer Tim Vaughan (second left), with the chairman of the 41 Club, Kerry Veale (extreme left). and other members of the club who enjoyed a tour of the racing stables. PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK

THE Cowbridge 41 Club was invited up to the Tim Vaughan Racing Stables at Aberthin recently.

A spokesman told The GEM: "Tim was kind enough to give us a tour of the stables, showing us the horses and the exercise yard.

"He also explained something about the logistics involved in having to transport the horses around the country.

"Sometimes, the stable has horses competing in four or five meetings in one day. They can travel as far away as race courses in Scotland and Ireland.

"We'd like to thank Tim for sparing the time to show us round and explaining a little about work behind the scenes at a horse racing stable."

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Llanblethian Support Group is formed by local residents

THIRTY FIVE local residents gathered at The Cross Inn recently to support the newly-formed Llanblethian Community Group.

A spokesman said: "Lots of positive ideas flowed, following the distribution of a questionnaire, recently delivered to residents by Creative Rural Communities.

"Initially, efforts will be made to plant bulbs at the post box at The Cross Inn, with plans to organise other group sessions to tidy the village being well supported.

"As a start, a community carol service is planned at the church on December 23 at 4 pm."

The spokesman added: "Support with planting and website skills will be most welcome in the months to come."

ABOVE: The Llanblethian co-ordinating group: Mike Bailey, Geoff Cox, Gwen Baty, Sue Cox, Chris Street, Graham and Margaret Bailey, and Rebecca Exley.
PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK

Local girl heading charity's appeals for children with cancer

FORMER Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil Sophie Heath has been chosen to spearhead The Joshua Foundation's latest appeals for terminally ill children – and is calling out to the public for help.

Sophie (21), from Llanblethian, graduated from Staffordshire University this July and is working as an intern at the Cardiff-based charity, aiming towards becoming their National Events Co-Ordinator in January.

She is appealing for public support for their two new projects – Haircut 100 and Fashion 4 A Cause.

Haircut 100 will run from December 7-14 and hopes to get as many hair salons and mobile hairdressers as possible collecting for charity on the same week.

The brainchild of the charity's founder and Joshua's mother, Sarah, the idea is that people take haircuts for granted. Children are particularly prone to losing their hair while undergoing treatment which can destroy morale. The idea is to raise awareness of this concept by cutting everyone's hair, with the salon and individual hairdresser who raise the most getting national coverage.

So far, PH71, Beau's Hair Boutique, Hair Business, Fitch and Ramous, Marooned and Vada Tellier in the Cowbridge area are on board, and Sophie hopes more will join them.

Fashion 4 A Cause will see a one-week pop up charity shop appear in Cardiff city centre's Royal Arcade between December 1- 8. It will sell clothes, jewellery and household items all donated by the public, vintage donations from shops like Cowbridge's Happy Days, celebrity donations, and it will also sell the charity's limited edition own-brand clothing.

They hope to grow the event first regionally and then nationally, opening temporary then permanent stores throughout the UK.

In turn, the charity will use the money to provide experiences and holidays for children with terminal cancer between birth and 19 years old.

Sophie says that it was her own experiences of cancer that led to her wanting to go in to events management.

She told The GEM: "When I was 14 my mum was diagnosed and everyone in school was absolutely phenomenal – staff and pupils.

"I'd always wanted to do events and I wanted to channel in to something where I could do that alongside passing everything in school – which mum was adamant about.

"I organised two gigs at Cardiff's Coal Exchange in July 2006 which raised around 2,000. Then in March 2007 we organised another gig at Cowbridge Leisure Centre which raised £1,500, while we did an event in school where my best friend Sarah shaved her head, loads of boys waxed their legs and I dyed my hair pink – raising £500-£600. The GEM helped me publicise them.

"My mum passed away in June 2008 and so I entered university and here I am."

The Joshua Foundation would like anybody who wishes to donate to come forward.

To get involved with either campaign, you can contact Sophie on 07793 582701, or by emailing: sophie@thejoshuafoundation.co.uk.

Donations of clothes, jewellery and household items can either be made to Sophie's house or the Joshua Foundation's base at 24 Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2DY. Alternatively, they can be dropped in to the pop up shop while it is open.

LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

Excitement over new store

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The Vale MP added: "Since the plans for the new store were announced, many residents have told me how much they are looking forward to enjoying a local Waitrose and the further choice it will provide for shoppers in the area, as well as enhancing the vibrancy of Cowbridge."

Mr Waite said that Waitrose was planning to be active in the community. He said: "That was why we decided to sponsor the Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival – even before we officially opened.

"We've been overwhelmed by the warm reception we have received from local people – and that was particularly true at the food festival.

"People came to our marquee and we had so many favourable comments."

In practical terms, the foodstore will have 138 parking spaces, and there will be two hours free parking. This will be monitored by an attendant.

Mr Waite said: "I think this gives people time to do their shopping, have a coffee and browse in the town. I am convinced that we will ease parking problems in the town."

He added that the store's partners, who were predominantly local people, were being encouraged to car share or cycle to work. For the cyclists, a shower was being installed so that they could freshen up before work.

Looking around the site, Vale stone features prominently, and it has been selected to match existing stonework in the town. A series of round plaques that lead across the car park mark where the ancient town walls stood, and the footpath from the High Street now goes across the car park, and then along the side of the store – leading straight to the Twt Park children's playground.

Mr Waite said: "Opening this store marks the 75th anniversary of Waitrose becoming part of the John Lewis Partnership and, after the opening, Alun Cairns will be joining us to plant a tree, from Waitrose's own farm, in Twt Park.

"We also plan to work with the town council to repaint the children's playground."

Inside the store, there is bilingual signage, with Welsh first and English second, and there will be special display areas devoted to local produce.

Mr Waite is also proud of the store's 'new-style' cafe. He said: "Meals and snacks will be prepared and cooked from scratch using ingredients on sale in the store.

"Then, if customers like what was served, they will be able to take away a free recipe card so they can make it again at home!"

The cafe occupies one corner of the store and, weather permitting, there will be tables and sunshades outside for al fresco dining.

He said that 700 people had applied for the 144 posts, and that he was delighted with the quality of applicants. The staff (or partners as they are termed in Waitrose) have been training in the company's stores in Barry and Pontprennau to prepare for the opening day.

Putting the finishing touches to the store's cafe.

Mr Waite added: "I'm really pleased that we'll be supporting local causes through our 'Community Matters' and 'Partner Volunteering schemes'.

"Through Community Matters, the shop will donate £1,000 every month, and it will be shared between three local causes, as nominated by customers and partners."

Customers receive a green token when they shop which they can put in the box of their cause of choice.

The first three charities to benefit from Community Matters will be Llamau Cymru, Southway Home for the Elderly and NSPCC Bridgend, with December's three causes being The Wallich, Crossroads Care in the Vale for the Elderly, and Salvation Army, Bridgend.

The Partner Volunteering scheme means that 250 hours of partners' time will be spent volunteering in the community.

Mr Waite added that the first community project was already in hand, as Waitrose and the two firms responsible for building the foodstore, Kier Construction and Midas, would be building a nature trail, with a pond and a bird hide, in the grounds of Y Bont Faen Primary School.

The round plaques in the car park mark the route of the old town walls.

In fact, Mr Waite has become a governor of the school.

He concluded by saying that he was sure that Waitrose will add to the vibrancy of the town.

The store, he said, had an established 'halo effect' in communities, bringing in extra customers, and Cowbridge will soon see this in action.

Town thanked

THE Cardiff and Vale branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association would like to thank the people and visitors to Cowbridge for their generosity in raising the sum of £593 at the street collection made in October.

This money will go towards providing care and support to local people with MND and their families and carers.

Shena Sarjeant (Chairman of Cardiff and Vale branch)

Penllyn bridge

PENLLYN Bridge Club results for October were as follows:

Thursday, October 4, 16 pairs - Joint first: Marian East & Barbara Easterbrook, Myrtle Hansard & John Lord 57.47 per cent; joint third Catherine Domican & John Hunter, Margaret & Hugh Thomas 56.17.

Thursday, October 11, 22 pairs first: Marion & David Stephenson 64.09; second: Ann Richards & Allan Evans 62.05; joint third: Marian East & Barbara Easterbrook, Judith & Colin Nunn 57.73.

Thursday, October 18, 20 pairs - first: Judith & Colin Nunn 61.11; second: Mary Wallis & Pam Hanmer 56.31; third: Alban & Gwenyth Wilde 55.81. ***Thursday, October 25,*** *7th round of the Robert Brown Cup competition,* ***14 pairs*** - first: Judith & Colin Nunn 65.912; second: John Lord & Joe Ilsley 60.61; third: Catherine Domican & Helen Owen 54.17.

CN

Conservative plans to revive the high streets

THE Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies, has launched a plan to revitalise the Welsh high street.

The launch took place in Barry at the Mount Sorrell Hotel and was followed by visits to a number of small businesses on Barry High Street, including Food for Thought, Jacqui's Greengocers, The Lush Cake Company, and Vic Hopkin & Sons Butchers.

Among the Conservative proposals to revive high streets are a consultation on business rates to make the Welsh economy more competitive; a charter for high streets so 'best practice' is shared; town centre managers and more planning guidance from the Welsh Government.

Assembly Members are being invited to 'adopt' a local high street in their local constituency and Mr Davies chose Barry High Street.

He said: "I will be working proactively to champion High Street, Barry liaising with local shoppers and businesses, as well as local authorities and interest groups such as the Chamber of Trade.

"We've outlined a number of sensible proposals to help with this and I was heartened to hear the First Minister confirm that the Welsh Government will be considering these in detail.

"There needs to be a constructive partnership between local authorities and the Welsh Government to bring high streets back to the heart of local communities.

"This could include experimenting with free parking initiatives to make local shopping more convenient and competitive, particularly in the face of the rise and rise of out of town shopping centres."

Mr Davies added: "We also want to see reform of the Welsh Government's business rates system, which is currently a major obstacle to growth and which makes it difficult for small businesses to develop, expand and create new jobs."

Racing kart puts injured troops in the driving seat

The new race kart presented to injured troops of KartForce with top row (left to right): Colin Lipscomb of SilverFoxKarting, Richard Croydon of Brewin Dolphin, injured troops Mark Allen and Stevie Shine, Welsh racing driver Jake Rattenbury, injured troop Martyn Compton, Colin Lipscomb of SilverFoxKarting, Nigel Clark of South Wales Karting Centre, Richard Croydon of Brewin Dolpin and, in the kart, Davie Birrell of KartForce.

INJURED soldiers in the Vale are to benefit from a new purpose-built racing kart, after charity KartForce received a charitable donation from a local business.

SilverFoxKarting, a business that provides kart coaching, events and engineering services, has raised more than £6,000 to build the new kart, which will be fitted with hand controls that can be easily adapted, depending on the injury of its driver.

Fitted with pedals and KartForce hand controls, the dual control kart allows troops with differing injuries, as severe as triple amputations, to compete together as a team on a totally level playing field with non-injured drivers.

The new kart, which has had many of its components donated by engine manufacturers, will be used by injured troops who want to take part in karting on a competitive level at championships across the UK.

After seeing a team of ex-servicemen compete in the Inter Services Karting Championships in an outdated kart, SilverFoxKarting's founders, Colin Lipscomb and Ken Denscombe, decided that they wanted to do something to help.

TOUCHED

Colin, who spent nine years in the Royal Air Force, said: "When we saw the team of ex-servicemen, we were touched by their spirit and outlook on life.

"Between the four drivers, none of them had a full set of limbs. We wanted to do something to help the great work of KartForce.

"Anybody can put their hand in their pocket and donate some money but we wanted to do something that that we knew would make a difference, so we went about building a new racing kart for the charity by using donations from the karting industry, and from friends who support this cause."

RACE DAY

The new kart was presented to members of KartForce by SilverFoxKarting and investment management firm Brewin Dolphin, at a special race day organised in the charity's honour.

The KartForce Challenge Cup, which took place at South Wales Karting Centre, was organised by SilverFoxKarting to raise further funds for KartForce and two related charities – the RAF Benevolent Fund and Army Benevolent Fund.

ENDURANCE

More than 20 teams took part in the four-hour endurance race, approved by the RAF Motorsport Association, donating their £80 entrance fee to the three charities. Organisers and the South Wales Karting Centre gave up their time and facilities for free for the cause.

A KartForce team of four took part in the Challenge Cup, made up of Martyn Compton (27) from Lydd in Kent, who received 80 per cent burns during an ambush on his vehicle; Stephen Shine (29) from London, who had his leg amputated above the knee after his tank was attacked in Iraq; Mark Allen (20) from Kings Lynn, who lost both of his legs above the knee, and the tip of his nose and several of his fingers after being struck by an IED in Afghanistan and, Davie Birrell (25) from Fife, who lost both of his legs below the knee, also due to an IED strike in Afghanistan.

Mum's thanks to 'Tractor Boys' for helping Elena (6)

A CHARITY tractor run that took place last weekend was in aid of a very special local cause.

The run, organised by the 'Tractor Boys of Aberthin' was to raise funds and awareness of a rare genetic condition that has singled out a six-year-old girl, Elena Wyatt.

The condition, called Mowat-Wilson syndrome, is so rare that Elena's mother, Helen, is aware of only one other child in Wales who has it.

Young Elena is a twin, and Helen only became aware of Elena's condition when she noticed that she was developing at a slower rate than her twin sister, Louisa.

Helen Wyatt, who runs Morgan's Hair Design in Eastgate, Cowbridge, told The GEM: "She just wasn't hitting the same milestones as her sister.

"Louisa was walking at the usual age, but Elena didn't start until about three-and-a-half.

"Even now, she is very unbalanced and wears splints to help her get around.

"Again, Elena barely speaks – although she clearly understands things well and uses the children's sign language, Makaton."

It means that when Helen takes the twins from her Cardiff home to Trelai Primary School in Ely, Louisa heads for her year-1 friends, while Elena goes to the reception class.

Helen stressed, however, that Elena has a mild form of the syndrome. She said: "I have joined a support group that is based in the UK and have met other parents.

"I saw one four-year-old boy who is blind and has constant breathing difficulties."

Mowat-Wilson Syndrome (MWS) can be confirmed by DNA testing, and can be responsible for a wide range of conditions, including bowel problems, heart disease and epilepsy.

For Helen and her husband Costa, dealing with Elena's condition has been difficult. Elena was diagnosed with MWS at the age of four, and Helen was pregnant at the time with Sophia, who is now 22 months old.

Helen said: "We were offered a test to see if Sophia had the condition, but we decided not to have it.

"It is amazing to us that now, Sophia seems to sense the difference between her twin sisters."

***ABOVE: Elena Wyatt and (left) her twin sister Louisa.*(Photographs by Glyn Evans).**

Having Elena has, says Helen, brought a lot of love into the family.

She explained: "Louisa is almost a carer for Elena, while Elena is really lovely with Sophia, and she spends hours playing with her.

"They both go to the same school, but two mornings a week, Elena goes to the nearly Riverside School, which is a special needs unit.

"I remember Louisa saying, Mummy, why is Elena special, when I'm not?"

The special needs statement has meant that Elena has had a great deal of support, with both a speech therapist and a physiotherapist working with her.

Helen said: "They have been fantastic, and Elena has definitely made great progress."

The Tractor Boys became involved because one of Helen's regular customers is Caroline Langford, and her husband Steve is one of the Tractor Boys.

The money they raised will go to the MWS support group, and Caroline told The GEM that they were delighted to be able to help the charity.

She said that the support group, apart from giving parents someone in a similar position to talk to, is also trying to raise awareness about the condition.

Although there is no cure, it seems that it is picked up and diagnosed earlier in some parts of the UK than in others – and an early diagnosis can really help a family.

Helen added: "Elena is wonderful and she is so cheerful and good-natured.

"She has no real sense of fear, and can hurt herself but doesn't seem to feel pain. .

"One day, she was sitting on stinging nettles, and didn't react at all, so she is not getting to be aware of danger.

"As a result, it looks as if she will need to be with her family all her life."

For pictures from the tractor run, see page 6

PHILIP IRWIN

When racing was racing!

ADAM POWLEY'S When Racing Was Racing -A Century of Horse Racing, published by Haynes at £20, is a delightful stroll down horse racing's memory's lane.

Drawing on pictures from the huge Daily Mirror Mirrorpix archive, this book brings back to life all the excitement and drama, with profiles of the great and good of the sport.

Some 90 racecourses disappeared in the 20th century alone and some of the ones featured are Gatwick, Manchester, Lincoln, Alexandra Park and Lewes.

The first named opened in 1891, was set up to replace the old Waddon track at Croydon.

Served by its own railway station, Gatwick was a successful venue, and even hosted the relocated Grand National during the First World War.

It continued to function up to 1940, but with another conflict demanding use of the land for an airfield, its days were numbered.

Racing legends such as Dick Francis, Sir Gordon Richards, Fred Winter, Terry Biddlecombe and Lester Piggott are just a few of the jockeys featured.

Even point-to-point racing gets a look-in, with a crowd scene taken at the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases at Penllyn Castle in 1965.

Another picture shows Gay Walker winning over the course on April Witch in 1969.

In presenting a broad picture of the sport as it once was, we get a fascinating glimpse of a lost age when the sport had the atmosphere of a pastime, not quite so wedded to absolute commercial imperatives (even if the reality might not have been so clear cut).

As a window on a 'lost world' of horse racing, the images presented in this unique book bring back some wonderful memories of a golden age.

REVIEW by BRIAN LEE

Lois

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Tractor Boys of Aberthin put on a special day for a special pair of young twin sisters

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthin staged one of their charity runs last Sunday (October 28) – and a local six-year-old girl was the star guest.

The event was in aid of Elena Wyatt, who suffers from Mowat Wilson Syndrome (MWS), and aimed to raise awareness of the conition.

Elena and her twin sister Louisa joined other children who were able to ride on the tractors and enjoy the day.

For a full report on Elena, and how she copes with MWS, see page 5 (overleaf).

ABOVE: Elena Wyatt was the star guest.

ABOVE: Elena's twin sister, Louisa (right) with a friend.

GEM READER SAYS:

'Council must be strong and scrap the LDP'

I REFER to the number of letters that have appeared in recent editions of The GEM, relating to the future of the LDP and the uncertainty over what is actually going to happen.

Despite repeated statements by Vale Council leader Neil Moore and other Labour members that the LDP has been scrapped, and will be replaced by a new plan, other letters have claimed that council officers have not been given any alternative instructions by the new administration and that they continue to work on the existing LDP.

Reference has also been made to the recent meeting with Welsh Government officials when it was stated that there was no desire to start the LDP process again.

The cabinet are due to make the decision on the future of the LDP, when they consider the council officer's report on November 5.

If the report states that it is not possible to scrap the LDP and carry out a full review, then I would urge cabinet members to throw the report out.

The Labour Party was elected on the basis of an election pledge that they would scrap the current LDP and replace it with a new one.

Recent statements by Couns Neil Moore, Lis Burnett and John Drysdale expressed concerns that the consultation carried out on the LDP was not satisfactory, far too complicated, and confirmed that there will be a new LDP, which will provide a fair balance of development across the Vale – based on a sound estimate of what is needed, and consider factors such as congestion and infrastructure needs, and be sustainable in the long term.

The only way that this can be achieved is by changing the LDP strategy and allocating sites in a revised LDP, which would then be put out for consultation.

There is no doubt that the strategy of the current LDP is unpopular with the vast majority of the residents of the Vale, as demonstrated by the thousands of people who have objected to the deposit LDP.

Unfortunately, it was not until the LDP was placed on deposit, that it became obvious how unpopular the strategy is – as when the draft strategy was subject to consultation in 2008, only 210 comments were received and less than 100 of these actually supported the strategy.

The Labour Party are perfectly entitled to honour their election pledge and should not accept the advice of council/Welsh Government officers, whose main priority is to get the LDP adopted as soon as possible, even though the locations of a lot of the allocated development sites are totally inappropriate, against the wishes of those who voted for the Labour Party, and the majority of people in the Vale.

The Labour Party must be strong and not let down the thousands of people who supported them, and honour their election pledge to scrap and replace the flawed LDP.

Dr R Stamatakis
Cowbridge.

Cadets' tour of MoD St Athan

ON October 20, Hunter Flying Ltd based at MoD St Athan slid back its hangar doors to welcome RAF Air Cadets and staff from Cowbridge, Kenfig Hill, Porthcawl, and Pencoed.

The visit was arranged by Sgt (ATC) Kevin Gould of 2117 Kenfig Hill Squadron and John Sparks, chief engineer, welcomed the Cadets into the facility.

Two engineers showed them around the various aircraft, which included a number of Hawker Hunters, the type of aircraft that is the Squadron Gate Guard in Kenfig Hill.

There was the opportunity to look inside a number of aircraft being restored at the facility, which include four Czech built L-29 aircraft that will form a new air display team for next year, and a rare Gannett XL500, that is on a two -ear rebuild to restore it to flying condition.

At the end of the tour, Instructor Staff Cadet Warrant Officer Nico Fitzgibbon presented a 2117 Kenfig Hill plaque to John Sparks.

The Cadets were then taken to have a look at two Canadian water bombers parked outside another of the new companies at St Athan, Cardiff Aviation Ltd, a photo of which can be seen on the Squadron's Facebook page.

LINDSAY THOMAS
(Secretary, Civilian Committee)

ABOVE: ISCWO Fitzgibbon presents the plaque (above) to John Sparks.

Church welcomes 'new' memorial to three soldiers from Llantrithyd

ON November 11, Remembrance Sunday will be very different in St Illtyd's church, Llantrithyd – the 9.15am service will include the dedication of a 'new' war memorial plaque on the church wall.

The plaque was originally located in Carmel Chapel. When this was closed and the contents cleared, the plaque was rescued from the builders' skip by some alert parishioners, and a campaign began to ensure it found a new permanent home in the parish church.

This was enthusiastically supported by the Parochial Church Council and the priest in charge, Archdeacon Peggy Jackson, and permission was finally secured after an appeal.

The memorial remembers three Llantrithyd soldiers – Owen Evans, Royal Sussex Regiment, buried in Ovilliers Military Cemetery, died July 7, 1916; Emrys Morgan Evans, Oxfordshire and Buckingham Light Infantry, died September 12, 1918; David Stanley Stennah, Royal Engineers, who died of wounds in 1919.

The Evans brothers were the sons of the Rev William Evans, minister of Carmel Chapel, and grandsons of the famed Ioan Trithyd, bard of Llantrithyd, whose words are preserved in the dedication.

The church welcomes any relatives of these young men to join in this Act of Remembrance.

DAVID WILLIAMS
(PCC chairman)

Story of a Welsh band of settlers in Patagonia

AT the October meeting of the Cowbridge Friendship Club, John Pearman opened his talk on the history of why 162 Welsh people decided to venture thousands of miles sailing from Liverpool to Patagonia in the 18th century, expecting to find a land of milk and honey, but the reality when they eventually arrived there was anything but.

There were poor conditions, with people having to sleep in mud huts and having to deal with local natives, but over the years they started to prosper and the 'locals' were quite happy to trade their horses for bread.

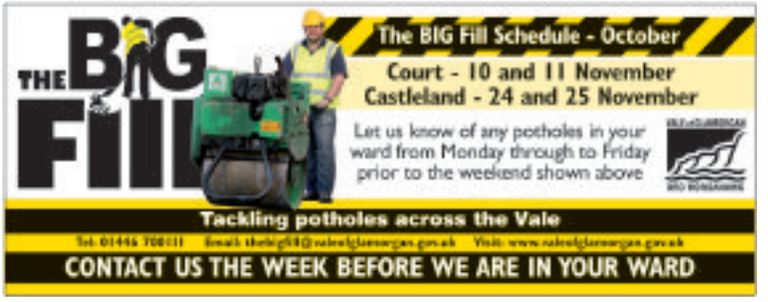
Even today, in parts of Patagonia, there is still a very strong Welsh influence, with the Welsh language being spoken alongside Spanish.

John then entertained members with slides, ably assisted by Doug Jones, showing parts of Patagonia and, in particular, the glaciers stretching for miles.

Time seemed to fly by, then John and Doug sat down with the members for their afternoon tea.

We always have a variety of activities at our meetings, which are held on the last Thursday of each month, so if anyone would like to join our Friendship Club, where transport is provided, please telephone 01656 668446.

PAT SMITH
(Leader)



Councillor welcomes reduction in some Vale leisure centre charges

A Penarth councillor says he has had charges for some indoor sports, such as tennis, reduced after making representations to the Vale Council.

Coun Anthony Ernest, who held responsibility for the council's five leisure centres until recently, was approached by a constituent who had been charged £9 for 45 minutes, when he and his children signed up for a game of tennis at Penarth.

Coun Ernest said it appeared that the new operators, Parkwood, were charging 'per person, per hour', rather than the previous rates of 'per court, per hour' – and it would have worked out at £16 per hour overall, compared with just £3.90 per hour at another major sports facility in Cardiff.

Said Coun Ernest: "Clearly there was a problem with these exhorbitant new rates and I took immediate action to find out why Penarth was now so expensive, compared with comparable leisure facilities elsewhere.

"There is no doubt that had these rates continued to be charged, that the useage of Penarth and the other Vale centres would have seriously suffered."

He added: "I am pleased to say that following my representations, the position was resolved within 24 hours, and the charges have now been reduced to a competitive level for these popular sports, on an 'hourly', rather than 'per person', basis."

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When young Alf Mills played the ukelele and Arthur sang:

'Leave the pretty girls alone!'

GEM readers will remember my references to the late 1920s and '30s when we made our own entertainment and my mention of the late Arthur Fryer.

Arthur was a good entertainer, being the same age as myself, and if he requested my help, I tried to oblige with the ukulele and swanee whistle.

Generally, the venue was the local church hall and we were never booed nor had adverse comments!

One of Arthur's songs was 'Leave the pretty girls alone' and I strummed along to accompany him. The words are fresh in my memory and I have highlighted these in the following note.

I was 19 then — happy days!

ALFRED MILLS
Barry)
(aged 101)

Alf Mills putting in a bit of practice on his ukulele in his garden in Rhoose, circa 1930.

LEAVE THE PRETTY GIRLS ALONE

I met a pretty girl in London, with curly hair and eyes so blue.
Now listen as I tell my story and show you what a girl will do.
She wanted me to spend my money on a pretty diamond stone.
I put it on her hand on Sunday — on Monday she was gone!
Then I met a girl in Soho— thought that she was on the square. I don't know where she went from Soho but anyway I paid her fare!
Then I thought I'd learnt my lesson — thought the girls and I were through, till I met this pretty maiden who said she'd always love me true.
She said she didn't want my money but she took it just the same, because she saw that we got married and now I am a married man.
I used to be a carefree traveller; used to be a regular sheikh but Now I have to take my wages and turn them over every week.
So listen to the things I tell you; a woman's heart is made of stone.
You'd better listen to my warning and leave the pretty girls alone!

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 746.

- **The rollover, which now stands at £10,500 was won this week:** 674998.
- **£2000:** 528208.
- **£10:** 480086; 494170; 615503; 848280; 184765; 880823; 417729; 874335; 132490; 498691; 908180; 509758; 508936; 609597; 232335; 361853; 495715; 332650; 233166; 157509.
- **£5:** 757650; 620551; 832847; 341332; 555005; 725233; 107368; 179435; 730732; 493912; 384846; 656548; 311444; 218234; 651044; 424931; 530086; 212120; 864447; 290921; 794584; 837920; 273928; 760015; 443534; 935280; 632933; 446753; 149506; 641837; 162785; 674341; 290762; 199318; 549745; 650351; 370456; 307858; 300802; 908279; 525055; 756958; 377089; 806723; 594701; 828552; 927398; 727880; 215409; 352036; 449693; 112620; 556845; 459066; 178461; 546245; 750891; 536820; 497814; 468146.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

22 per cent of new housing in Vale affordable, *council insists*

THE Vale Council has revealed that more than 22 per cent of new housing in the area during 2011/12 was 'affordable'.

"This figure corrects that published in a recent Welsh Government report which put the level of new affordable homes in the Vale at 3 per cent the lowest in Wales," a spokeswoman stated, adding that there were concerns about the figure and council officials analysed the data submitted to the Local Government Data Unit.

This revealed that the returns failed to take into account sites that were developed and completed during the year to provide affordable housing.

Rob Thomas, director of development services, said: "The correct data shows that 22.6 per cent of all new housing provided in the Vale of Glamorgan during 2011/12 was affordable.

"This is in clear contrast to the 3 per cent reported in the recent 'Local Government Performance' report from the Local Government Data Unit.

The actual figures show a total of 40 affordable units provided out of a total of 177 units."

He added: "This revised figure has been submitted to Welsh Government, so that the records can be amended accordingly and more stringent checks have now been put in place prior to submitting returns in this important area."

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VALE BUILDING PROJECTS ARE IN THE FRAME FOR 'BEST OF BRITISH' AWARD

Pictured at the Wales Millennium Centre for the All Wales Building Excellence awards were, (left to right): Charles Hunter (Vale Council principal officer); Audrey Smith (PS Holdings); Marcus Goldsworthy; Coun Fred Johnson; Andrew Hodgson (Town and Counties); Chris Jones (LABC chairman); and Maria Webber (Vale Council technical and development officer).

LEFT: Town and Counties will be keeping their fingers crossed when they attend the national building excellence finals in London for their Penarth development.

TWO building projects completed recently in the Vale are in the frame for a 'best in Britain award'.

The ninth Vale Council Building Control Group 'Building Excellence Awards' were held earlier this year at The Mount Sorrel Hotel, and two of the Vale winners have now triumphed at the All Wales Building Excellence awards, at a gala ceremony at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

The two winning Vale companies were Town and Counties, for extension and alteration work at 133, Plymouth Road, Penarth, and PS Holdings, in the commercial projects section, for their work building Pier 64, the new restaurant at Penarth Marina.

Marcus Goldsworthy, the operational manager for development and building control at The Vale Council, said: "It is a marvellous achievement that projects from the Vale have won two categories at the all-Wales event – and I believe that these projects can also win at the national awards in London on November 13 – where they will be up against projects from councils throughout England and the rest of the UK".

Coun Fred Johnson, chairman of the council's planning committee, added: "The winning projects have shown the quality of building work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale and we are proud to be part of such an important national awards event.

"We continue to support the annual awards and would like to thank our sponsors, who enabled the event to take place.

"They were: Nina Estate Agents; ACD Skip Hire; JPL Sound; The GEM; and The Mount Sorrel Hotel."

RIGHT: The Pier 64 restaurant at Penarth Marina could be a UK-wide award winner at the national finals later this month.

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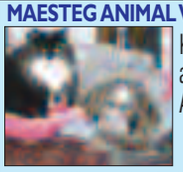

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GOODYEAR DUNLOP

Former rugby star hits £40,000 fundraising target for the Ty Hafan hospice

In costume for a charity video are Brynmor Williams (left) and Robert Jones.

FORMER Wales and British Lions rugby star turned broadcaster, Brynmor Williams, has achieved his goal of raising £40,000 for Ty Hafan hospice this year.

In February, Brynmor, a director of Thomas Carroll Group plc, set out on a mission to raise £40,000 – to commemorate the insurance group's 40th anniversary.

As part of the fundraising effort, Brynmor, who lives in Cowbridge, stars in a new charity video as a 1970s-style action hero, in the character of 'Harry Lion', in the short film '*The Insurers – Mission for Ty Hafan.*'

He also co-hosted a 40th birthday event at the Wales Millennium Centre, which pushed the total raised to £49,000.

In the film, Brynmor and his fellow 'Insurers' attempt to deliver a briefcase containing money to the Millennium Stadium, despite the attentions of a mysterious enemy spy.

He said: "It was great to see fellow directors abandoning their dignity, dressing up and acting for such an important cause. The video has certainly helped attract people to our charity page and spread awareness of our fundraising activities. I am pleased to have played my part in raising £49,000 for Ty Hafan."

Other fundraising events included a four-day 250-mile north to south Wales bike ride, the Three Peaks climb, and golfing events.

In a further example of his acting skills, Brynmor also appears in a second charity video with fellow rugby legend, Robert Jones MBE.

The two former scrum halves compare their sporting records in a verbal sparring match titled 'Alas Bryn and Jones'.

Thomas Carroll was founded on October 1, 1972, in Cardiff by Evan Thomas and Terry Carroll and their respective wives, Anne and Delma.

The company now employs 110 people, with headquarters in Caerphilly and offices in Swansea and Brecon.

The film '*The Insurers – Mission for Ty Hafan*' and 'Alas Bryn and Jones' can be viewed at: *www.thomascarroll.co.uk.*

Severn Barrage row rumbles on as an AM calls for local focus

THE row over proposals to build a barrage between Lavernock Point and Somerset has continued, with local AM Andrew RT Davies calling for the Welsh Government to conduct a comprehensive consultation with local residents.

Mr Davies said it was time to end the uncertainty faced by residents in recent years. He was speaking following a debate in the Senedd on renewable energy from the Severn Estuary.

He said: "We have heard a lot of discussion about the potential impact on the local environment, and of course the potential economic footprint that a project of this size could have in Wales.

"It is clear that we have an energy source of great potential on our doorstep with the Severn Barrage project. Time and time again proposals have come forward and each time nothing concrete has emerged.

"If the Welsh Government are serious about the project, there needs to be a proper consultation and discussion with locals, as well as clarity over the likely deadline for a final decision. We can't keep people waiting in limbo forever.

"They need to decide whether this project is financially viable and consider how much, if any, public money will be earmarked for it.

"What we don't want is a wave of publicity and a huge fanfare, only for residents to find out further down the line that the project is to be put in mothballs once again."

Police hunt for Penarth burglars

POLICE are appealing for information following two burglaries at the Co-operative store on Windsor Road, Penarth.

At about 2am on Wednesday, October 24, two men forced entry into the premises via the front door.

A large quantity of cigarettes was stolen from the front kiosk before they made off.

At around 1am on Sunday October 28, the suspects returned, forced entry via the front doors of the shop and stole tobacco from the kiosk, before making off once again.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Barry CID on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

• Police say a 36-year-old Cardiff man has been arrested in connection with the two burglaries.

Festive fayre

Marie Curie hospice, Penarth holds a Christmas fayre on Saturday, November 10, from 10.30am.

There will be an opportunity to buy Christmas cards, as well as Marie Curie merchandise, guess the weight of the cake, and a raffle.

Roadworks report

Temporary traffic control – ***Plassey Street, between Albert Road and Arcot Street, Penarth; Sully Moors Road/Hayes Road, Sully; Church Road, Barry.***

Intermittent temporary traffic control – ***Port Road, Barry at the junction with Pencoedtre Lane, 9.30am-3.30pm.***

Temporary road closures from 5.30pm-9.30pm on November 5 for fireworks displays– ***Paget Road, between Harbour Road and its cul-de-sac near lifeguard staton including the unnamed section of road adjacent to side of 10 Paget Road; Station Approach Road; Breaksea Drive from Adar y Mor to Station Approach Road; Friars Road from Station Approach Road to Paget Road, Barry.***

Permit holders only at Westward Rise, Porth y Castell, Bron Awelon, Tan y Fron, Min y Mor, Pen y Bryn, Marine Drive, Trem y Don, Swn y Mor, Cliffwood View, Bull Cliff Walk.

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£500 donation powers up ValePlus charity

ABOVE: Cheque presentation, from left: Gemma, Rebecca, ValePlus director Steve Thomas, Aberthaw Power Station manager Phil Allen, ValePlus trustee Rob Hartery, and Chris.

ABERTHAW Power Station manager Phil Allen, recently presented a donation of £500 to Valeplus charity that provides educational, social and recreational day services for adults with learning disabilities in the Vale and Cardiff.

The donation will help to set up a new café at 5 High Street, Barry – Café No 5 – which will be opened to the public this month.

"As a local employer, we are really pleased to be able to support such a great venture and I'm sure many of our staff who live in the area will want to call in for a drink and a cake once the café is open", said Phil.

ValePlus has sessions open to those aged over-16 designed to help them achieve independence and employment. Up to 20 clients take part in the sessions in Barry each weekday and six attend a group in Llantwit Major on a Thursday and Friday.

"This is a fantastic donation and we are very grateful, as the refurbishment work in the café is mostly funded by ValePlus", added Valeplus director Steve Thomas.

"The trainees will have an opportunity to put their skills into action as they work in the business."

PACT meetings

***CADOC PACT**, Palmerston Community & Learning Centre, November 14 at 6pm.*

***GIBBONSDOWN PACT**, The Residents Board Office, Coychurch Rise on November 14 at 10.30am.*

***LLANDOUGH PACT**, Llandough Conservative Club on November 12 at 7pm.*

***SULLY PACT**, Jubilee Hall, Smithies Avenue, Sully on November 15 at 7pm.*

SECRET BUNKER WHERE WATCHERS WAITED FOR WARTIME INVASION

NINE Penarth and district Ramblers met Pam and Krys for a local walk in the Cefn Onn area, and walking north up a railway cutting, passed the golf course and a ventilation shaft for the railway tunnel that lay ahead, which can only be accessed on foot.

In 1871, the Rhymney Railway provided a link to Cardiff Dock and in 1858 the Rhymney Caerphilly line ran through the 1,935 yard tunnel taking the railway underneath Caerphilly Mountain.

The small railway station Cefn Onn Halt was opened by the Great Western Railway to serve the surrounding wooded area, but was finally closed in September 1986, as the area had changed and grown with the M4 motorway and the vast amount of housing development nearby.

Going uphill along a bridleway and passing a small stream, they joined a path through deciduous woodland and part of the 28-mile Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk to enjoy brilliant views over to Caerphilly Castle shrouded in mist that had still not burned off.

On continuing along the ridge and crossing road gates led into a field and then more woodland, from where a bridle path led downhill past ruined buildings into a small wooded valley.

Two footbridges over the stream were crossed in close succession at Coed Coesau eventually leading to a restored concrete bunker, built during World War Two to conceal a secret group known as the Auxiliary Unit, set up to relay vital information about the German invaders for counter attacks by the British.

A gradual climb uphill onto the ridge above the steep-sided Craig Llysfaen meant brilliant views across the Bristol Channel, taking in Flat and Steep Holm and crossing the ridge clear views of the Llanishen reservoirs and on to the Millennium Stadium and Cardiff Bay in the distance.

Passing the 264m trig point, the group joined Graig Road, following it downhill for a short while before a track leading past some houses saw them re-joining their initial path for the short trip back to Cefn Onn.

On November 4, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate/hard walk at Highmeadow Woods and the Wye Valley; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 255102.

JOY STRANGWARD

£75 fixed fines in the Vale

THE local authority support company XFOR issued 54 fixed penalty notices in the Vale during the week commencing October 22.

XFOR has been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering incidents in the Vale.

A council spokeswoman said: "They are taking a zero tolerance approach to environmental crimes, where offenders will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75, without warning."

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Rhys Gould, Head of Residential sales, leads our successful team. Rhys has been with the company for 5½ years and lives locally in Llantwit Major. Richard Morgan, Partner, heads our successful Lettings Department, which continues to grow from strength to strength. Matthew Jones, Senior Associate, from Cowbridge, has over 13 years experience within the industry and Colwyn Treharne Jones, Consultant, has over 50 years experience as a Chartered Surveyor. We are also pleased to introduce two exciting additions to the team. Sam Dovey, from Peterston-Super-Ely, and Hannah Whitehouse, from Llandow, near Cowbridge, bring a wealth of experience, an enthusiastic sales approach and key local contacts to the team.

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NEWS FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Primary school pupils get a glimpse of things to come

AT the start of October, Barry Comprehensive School welcomed almost 300 year-6 boys to an action-packed day to introduce them to the school.

The visitors enjoyed a crash course in making music with a junk band, African drums, rock school and an introduction to music technology.

The hospitality and catering department got everyone making pizza and gave lots of tips about kitchen hygiene and safety.

The science department took over the school hall to investigate different sources of energy that featured demonstrations, hands-on practicals and even a hovercraft!

The year-6 visitors, and their sixth form chaperones, had plenty of opportunities to burn off their own excess energy with dodgeball in the gym, golf in the sports hall, street dancing and drama improvisation.

Enjoying the fruits of their labour in hospitality and catering.

LEFT: The Rock School professionals encouraged year-6 to have a go at making their own music during an entertaining crash course.

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'GOVERNMENT TARGETS NOT BEING MET' – SAY REGIONAL AM AND MP

Conservative duo call for improved cancer treatment times in the Vale

TWO Conservative politicians are angry that targets concerning the time taken to start cancer treatments weren't being met in the Vale.

Both regional AM Andrew RT Davies and Vale MP Alun Cairns were "disappointed" that one in seven cancer patients starting urgent treatment in August were not seen within the Government's target time.

The Welsh Government's target is to treat 95 per cent within 62 days of being diagnosed. Alun Cairns claims that target has not been met since First Minister Carwyn Jones took up his position.

According to them, during August 2012, 11 people in Cardiff and the Vale out of a total of 75, more than one in seven, were not treated within 62 days – 10 per cent below the target. Figures for June (three per cent) and July (14 per cent) also showed targets not being met.

Alun Cairns said: "I am so angry that people in the Vale and across Wales fail to receive the treatment they need to battle cancer, within the time-frame that the Welsh Government has set. As we all know, getting treatment for cancer as soon as possible is critical. Long delays are frightening and only add to the strain, pressure and fear felt by patients and their families.

"Delays in treatment and the inaccessibility of cancer drugs for patients in the Vale is something that all too regularly crops up in my constituency surgeries."

Mr Davies, leader of the Welsh Conservatives, added: "The fact is that these vital targets have not been met in Wales since the First Minister took up his post, and until they are we will be nowhere near the first-class treatment we deserve. Local residents need to have confidence in the health system upon which they rely.

"Right now, record Welsh Government cuts to NHS funding in Wales are putting huge pressure on beleaguered staff who are trying their utmost to deliver quality treatment and care. They, too, deserve better."

Dr Graham Shortland, Medical Director at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "We are committed to meeting cancer waiting times and are working hard on plans to address our current waits. Capacity issues in two areas, coupled with a rise in demand, have had an adverse impact on our waiting times.

"We are working on plans to tackle these issues, with some additional capacity due to come on stream in the next few weeks.

"We would like to apologise to any patient who is currently waiting to be seen for any undue distress caused.

"*While we recognise that this failure to meet target is not acceptable, it's important to note that the 62-day target relates to patients who may have cancer but who, as yet, have no formal diagnosis.*

"The UHB complies fully with the 31-day cancer treatment target, which applies to patients who have been diagnosed with cancer."

• ***A Welsh Government spokesperson told The GEM: "The number of patients involved in these statistics are relatively small and the interventions often complex, meaning small changes can affect the overall picture greatly.***

"The large majority of patients are still seen within the target time.

"We continue to work closely with all health boards to improve performance, concentrating on those patients waiting over 62 days.

"The Minister for Health and Social Services, Lesley Griffiths AM, has expressed to health board chairs her strong wish to see improvements, and has raised the issue with them again this week.

"The Minister expects to see improvements early in 2013."

LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

BYRON DAVIES
SOUTH WALES WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Advice Surgery
Friday, 9 November 2012
10.30 am - 12.00pm
Community Hall outside of
The Pheasant PH, Heol Yr Eglwys
Pen y Fai, Bridgend

byron.davies@wales.gov.uk
01792 654049
02920 898929

Welsh Conservatives

Opportunities evening

FRIENDS of Belvedere Park are hosting an opportunities evening on Friday November 2 between 6.30pm and 8.30pm at Castleland Community Centre.

There will be a treasure hunt, quiz with prizes and refreshments available.

Opportunities available include: all aspects of gardening from basic to advanced level, design and artwork for planted areas, helping with organising/running fundraising events and activities, publicity and promotion including opportunities to produce videos and digital promotional material, maintain Belvedere Park website, and any other support that you can give.

All welcome! For further information, contact Jean on 01446 403549. ***JJ***

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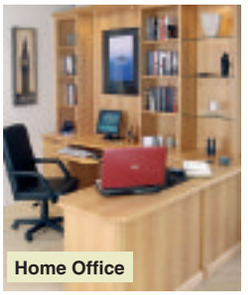
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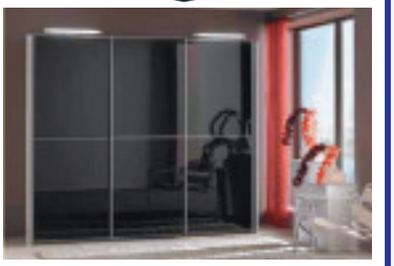

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FOUR NEW SIGNINGS FOR OIL 4 WALES...

INDEPENDENT oil distribution company Oil 4 Wales has added to its squad by signing up four of Wales' rugby stars as official ambassadors.

The oil brand for Wales has secured the support of Wales' current kicking coach Neil Jenkins, Wales international and Llanelli Scarlets hooker Ken Owens, and Wales international and Newport-Gwent Dragons flanker Dan Lydiate, as well as former international Dafydd Jones.

The new signings come as Oil 4 Wales's original ambassador, Shane Williams, takes time out from duties as he embarks on a season in Japan.

Colin Owens, managing director of Oil 4 Wales, said: "Shane has been a fantastic ambassador for our company over the past year and it is great to see him already doing so well over in Japan.

"We are a very proud Welsh company, so it is great for us to have members of the Welsh rugby team on board, as they share the same passion for Wales as we do."

Dan Lydiate said: "Oil 4 Wales is passionate about Wales and is truly committed to serving the communities of Wales. It is a great company to be involved in – friendly, family run and with the Welsh community at its heart.

"They have already built an impressive client base and I look forward to working with them going forward as they continue with their exciting expansion plans."

Oil 4 Wales is a family-run company, which was founded by entrepreneur Colin Owens, in 2011. The company, which supplies a range of fuel services to homes, businesses, commercial premises, agricultural and retail customers, has been well supported by those keen to see the success of a truly independent Welsh oil brand, and now supplies over 16,000 customers in Wales.

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Olew dros Gymru

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Proud to unveil our new ambassadors Welsh rugby stars Neil Jenkins, Ken Owens, Dan Lydiate and Dafydd Jones.

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Helping those with eating disorders

Approximately 1.6 million people suffer from eating disorders in the UK.

Disorders like anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge eating can be an outlet for emotions such as anger, anxiety, depression and low self-esteem, often caused by a general inability to cope, psychological trauma, bereavement or difficult relationships. They can develop as coping mechanisms.

You can read more about this at: *www.afsfh.co.uk/membersaccess_press_releases.php*.

Cardiff Hypnotherapy Solutions helps clients reduce anxiety, restoring perspective. Once under contro,l many of the troublesome symptoms can be alleviated, including unhelpful behaviours towards food.

Regaining control usually helps clients restore motivation, confidence and self-esteem and rediscover their healthy relationship with food.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

EVEN IN AFRICA... Richard can't stop caring for his foster kids!

CAROLINE ALLEN, a mum of three, and a foster carer with Action for Children, loves fostering, even though she has enough reason to keep clear of a hectic household of children at the moment.

For Caroline's husband, Richard, is working abroad in Tanzania, East Africa – but despite this, he always makes time to speak with his family via the internet.

There is no stopping him and Caroline continuing to give vulnerable youngsters a home, wherever he may be based.

"It just feels right to open up your home to children," explains Caroline. "Even though Richard is away a lot of the time, I can cope because I get brilliant support from Action for Children."

To find out more about becoming a foster carer with Action for Children, call 01633 270 422.

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Sunday, 11 November, 10.30am - 3.30pm
Cowbridge Comprehensive School,
Aberthin Road, Cowbridge CF71 7EN.
(If you would like a stall to sell your goods please email: mandyterry@aol.com or call 07979 148939

COME to our popular Cowbridge Comprehensive Christmas market and enjoy a few hours of festive shopping, while also supporting the school.

Now with over 70 stalls full of fabulous, unique and interesting gift ideas.

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Cost-efficient inheritance tax planning is our aim

FURTHER to previous articles concerning tax-efficient business protection, and the EU Gender directive 21/12/2012, which will re-shape the pricing of Life assurance of annuities, I have recently attended forums regarding the costs associated to inheritance tax planning.

Some institutions are charging hundreds of pounds per month when it can be arranged at a fraction of the cost. D.P.T. Financial Solutions can offer you this solution, if appropriate to your circumstances.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Minister checks on benefits of new broadband service

Donal Whelan shows Stephen Crabb and Simon Mawyer how ultrafast internet is improving his home-based business in St Hilary.

ST HILARY found itself at the heart of the Welsh broadband debate last week when Wales Office Minister Stephen Crabb visited on a fact finding mission to see how Welsh businesses can take advantage of access to high-speed broadband.

Mr Crabb accompanied Simon Mawer, the managing director of Welsh broadband provider Konek-T, to the St Hilary home of Donal Whelan, one of the first people to take up their superfast broadband.

Mr Whelan runs his own music mastering business, Hafod Mastering, from his home in the village and relies on the internet for his work.

Mr Crabb said: "Improving Wales' communications infrastructure is vital to grow our economy and compete on a global scale.

"Having access to ultrafast broadband will let businesses expand and develop new markets, creating the jobs we need.

" It will also allow rural Welsh communities to access public services more quickly and efficiently online."

Mr Crabb also visited the Arqiva St Hilary Transmission Tower, where Konek-T's technology is based.

Konek-T

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BRIDGEND Solicitors, Anthony and Jarvie, are pleased to support Will Aid; throughout November, we will be waiving our usual fee for a basic will in return for a donation to Will Aid.

Our experienced team invites anyone thinking of making a will, or updating an existing will, to contact them.

Will Aid clients will also be able to take advantage of our offer to draw up a Lasting Power of Attorney, with a reduction of 20% on our usual fee.

For further information, or to make an appointment, contact Katherine Kemp on kkemp@anthonyandjarvie.co.uk, David Morrish on dmorrish@anthonyandjarvie.co.uk or telephone 01656 652737.

London firm appoints Vale solicitor

TOP-RANKED London law firm TV Edwards has appointed a family solicitor to offer a local service in the Vale.

Consultant Hayley Brain is looking forward to the new venture:

"I have specialised in this area throughout my career, covering the range of issues associated with divorce and separation, including financial matters, child law and domestic violence.

"My objective is to help clients through a difficult time, giving clear advice and an efficient service, while always trying to minimise animosity, focussing on the needs of any children.

"The support of TV Edwards means I have access to their excellent training, IT infrastructure and resources, leaving me free to concentrate on getting the best result for my clients."

For confidential advice, contact Hayley on 07539 339888.

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MAKE YOUR WILL, FOR PEACE OF MIND

A Will is often one of those things we all mean to 'sort out' but very often is left undone.

Nonetheless, it is a vital document to have in place – to give peace of mind; to ensure that the people we want to benefit at the time of death actually benefit; to bequeath a legacy to a friend or a charity.

Actually, making a Will is a very straightforward process.

Alternatively, you may have already made your Will, but are wondering if it is still appropriate for your requirements.

Perhaps you need to appoint guardians for your children, or you now have grandchildren, or you have recently benefited from a legacy yourself, which may increase the value of your estate.

You may simply feel that your current Will no longer fulfils your wishes.

For advice or assistance on any of these matters, please do not hesitate to contact Glamorgan Law LLP at The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge on 01446 771742. This firm will be participating in the Will Aid scheme for the month of November.

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Local charity steps in to tackle prostate disease with new laser equipment

A WELSH charity that began life in Cowbridge, has stepped forward once again to pay for a high-tech machine that can make a huge difference to men with prostate disease.

It was eight years ago that the GLAZE Charity Trust raised the money to buy a Green Light Laser machine for the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, and the charity has been supporting its upkeep and running costs ever since. More than 1,100 men have been treated with the laser technology and the hospital's urological department is now the leading training unit of its kind in UK.

GLAZE, which is an integral part of Prostate Cymru Charity Trust, said support from companies and donations from individuals had been crucial in providing the additional £106,000 required to ensure the continuance of the Green Light Laser Treatment.

The new Green light laser XPS system delivers laser energy to the prostate and removes prostate tissue that is causing obstruction.

Patients stay in hospital for about a day after treatment, as opposed to up to four days with a more standard procedure.

Prostate Cymru and Glaze founder and trustee, Ray Murray, said: "Prostate disease, both malignant and benign, is the most common form of disease diagnosed in Welsh men.

"Our charities want to ensure that we have the most modern and successful equipment available, as well as highly-trained surgeons.

"We are tremendously grateful for the support we have received from companies in Wales, and from people who have raised money on our behalf through sponsorships and other activities.

"Companies such as Rockwool, Tata Steel and GE Aviation, have been really supportive. We have held prostate disease awareness days on many firms' premises – and so our relationship is proving mutually beneficial."

Andy Thomas,, who is a senior urology consultant at the Princess of Wales Hospital, said: "I am truly thankful to GLAZE, Prostate Cymru and its supporters for facilitating the purchase of the new third Generation Green light laser system for the Princess of Wales Hospital.

"We have been using this laser in the recent European trial of Green light versus another established system.

"The increased power and speed of the new laser has proven to be a great advance over the one we used previously.

"The hospital offers the only NHS Green light laser in service in Wales. With the increasing cost pressures being borne by the NHS, it was likely that this service would have been lost, as funds may not have been found to purchase the new laser.

ABOVE (left to right): Ray Murray, Tim Vincent (senior technical consultant at Rockwool), and Andy Thomas.

"Thanks to GLAZE, this threat has been removed and Welsh men now still have the opportunity to undergo safe day case surgery to treat benign prostate conditions."

Mr Murray added, "Prostate Cymru is now seeking to raise funds for a Robotic Laparoscopic Surgical System.

"This kind of precise and minimally invasive surgery is widely available in Europe and North America, but not in Wales. There are nearly 40 robotic surgical machines in England, where this surgery is free on the NHS, but not a single one in Wales.

"So, if a man in Wales wishes to have robotic surgery, the chances are that he will have to pay privately for treatment in an English hospital, at a cost of up to £15,000.

"We are aiming to raise £1.7 million for the first machine in Wales by our 'Operation Robot' campaign.

"It's an ambitious target but we are planning some very big fund-raising initiatives.

"We need all the support we can get, so we'd be delighted to hear from anyone out there who can help us achieve this important objective."

For more information, go to www.prostatecymru.com

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Prepare your Home for Christmas

New Government scheme could warm your home in time for Christmas

ABOVE: Environment Minister, John Griffiths and Citizens Advice policy director, Teresa Perchard at the launch of Big Energy Savings Week

ONE thing any home-owner can do as Christmas approaches is check if money is being wasted on heating bills.

That's why it is a good idea to look at a new Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) scheme, that is making £13 million available for this very purpose.

The Environment Minister, John Griffiths said the money will be divided between two fuel poverty schemes, 'Nest' and 'Arbed', both of which target investment at those people most in need of help.

Speaking at the launch of Big Energy Savings Week at the Bridgend shopping outlet, McArthurGlen, he said: "Rising energy costs and the current economic conditions mean that too many people in Wales are becoming vulnerable to fuel poverty.

"The Welsh Government is committed taking action to tackle this issue, and that is why Nest, our fuel poverty scheme, targets investment at those people most at risk.

"Latest figures show that since April 2011, Nest has provided advice and support to more than 15,000 households to help them reduce their bills, and has funded energy-saving improvement in around 5,600 homes.

"These improvement packages really do make a difference, resulting in an average saving of £500 per household, so I am delighted that we have been able to allocate significant additional money to such a beneficial scheme.

"The £13m will be shared between Nest and our strategic energy scheme, Arbed, which in its first phase helped to make 6,000 homes in some of Wales poorest areas more energy efficient.

"We are now moving into Arbed's second phase and expect it to benefit a further 5,000 homes plus by 2016.

"Both Nest and Arbed make a genuine difference to the quality of life of Welsh householders, resulting in warmer homes and reduced fuel bills, and I am delighted that we are able to maintain our investment in tackling fuel poverty at this economically difficult time."

Finance Minister, Jane Hutt said: "The additional £10million to improve domestic energy will make a real difference, ensuring warmer homes and more manageable fuel bills for many of Wales' less well off householders."

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GREAT news for anyone considering having their furniture painted – local decorator Sara Llewellyn is back in business and looking forward to a busy autumn.

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Her transformations create stunning results, whether it be a small chest of drawers or a complete kitchen revamp, no project is too small.

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Simply call to arrange a free estimate and to discuss your project on 07887 651598 or 01446 796142

Make your home look its best with Modern Decorations

GET ready to make your home cosy this winter with Modern Decorations' personal touch.

Whether you want to give a room a fresh look with new curtains or blinds, or find something to suit an existing colour scheme, Modern Decorations have what you are looking for.

Geoff Brown has over 30 years' experience in advising on and supplying curtains and blinds to both the domestic and contract market.

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He has a wide range of fabric samples and colours with amazing textures to suit any room, and estimates are free with no obligation and all requirements can be accomodated – order now and be fitted in time for Christmas.

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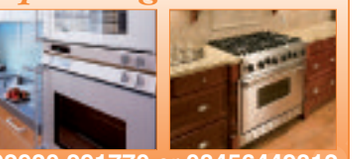

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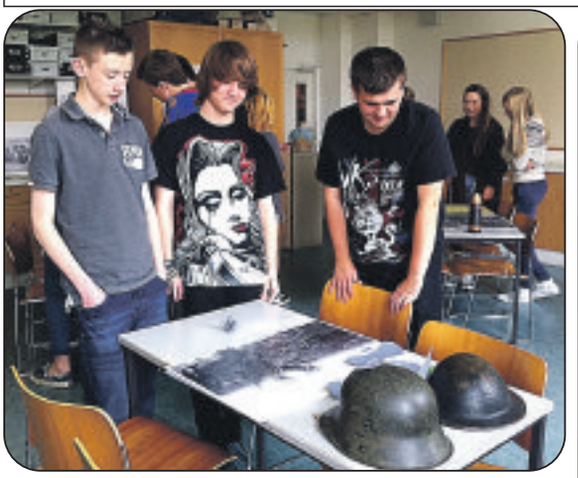
NEWS IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AT YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

PUPILS VISIT IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM FOR HANDS-ON WORLD WAR ONE STUDY



ON October 5, the year-11 GCSE history class travelled to London to visit the Imperial War Museum.

During this term, pupils will be completing their controlled assessment on the First World War. They took part in a workshop on interpretations of the First World War led by the museum's experts.

This gave pupils the perfect opportunity to develop their research, interrogation and analysis skills through studying a number of original artifacts.

We also had the opportunity to visit galleries based on the theme 'war' at the museum.

Technology project exhibition

IT was a pleasure to see year-13 pupil Ioan Williams' AS design technology work being displayed as part of the WJEC Innovation Awards Exhibition. The exhibition was held in Cardiff and Llandudno earlier this month.

Eco news

IN October, a whole school electrical equipment recycling event was held at the school.

The event was under the supervision of the A-level business class. Pupils and staff filled a lorry with electrical equipment to recycle. This event takes us one step closer to becoming an Eco School this year.

Pupils publicised the day by colourful posters and pamphlets, presentations in the school assemblies and by speaking to staff and pupils. There was a positive response from many pupils, parents and staff and we are waiting to hear whether or not we have collected enough equipment to win a prize.

Head pupils

CONGRATULATIONS to Wil and Hannah Owen on being chosen as head boy and head girl for this academic year.

They will be assisted by Ioan Williams and Nia Spilsbury.

Open evening

A HIGHLY successful open evening was held on Wednesday, October 17, with more than 300 visitors to the school.

We were delighted to extend a warm welcome to parents, friends and prospective pupils and parents.

Visitors enjoyed a variety of activities including an impressive gymnastics display, exciting science experiments, a short drama production and a chance to sample some of the refreshments now available in the new school coffee shop.

A very special evening!

AN exciting opportunity to experience some of the learning activities on offer to year-7 at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg was an integral part of a recent parents' evening.

Parents often contact the school to ask for constructive and practical advice on how to help their children with their work and in response to this, a series of interactive workshops were held to provide the necessary guidance for parents to help their children with their learning in secondary school.

It was a resounding success, with parents choosing between four workshops; 'Safe Surfing' (using the internet safely), 'Read On!' (encouraging your child to read), 'How to use the school diary?' and 'Assessments', reports and targets make sense – as well as discussing progress with form tutors. **MT**

PICTURED RIGHT: Wil Owen, Nia Spilsbury, Hannah Owen, and Ioan Williams.

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ABTA

AIR CADETS' MOVING VISIT TO WORLD WAR ONE GRAVES

SIX Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, Adam Wood, Megan Palmer-Wood, Carl Chaplin, Charles Adams, Megan Hamblin and Geraint Franklin, recently travelled to Europe to pay homage to those who lost their lives fighting for their countries in the great wars.

The visit encompassed the war memorials and battlefields of Ypres Salient, in Belgium and those of the Somme, in France.

The cadets stayed as guests of the Belgium Army in Ypres and during their time were able to witness members of the local Fire Brigade performing the moving 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate.

As a sign of the greatest respect, Cadet Megan Hamblin laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the Squadron.

Cadet Adam Wood said: "We also went to Dunkirk to see where the evacuations took place. When you stand on the beach, it's amazing to think that in May 1940 all those people came in all sorts of boats, big and small to save the Servicemen and to try to get them home."

The cadets are fully aware of the consequences for war for every nation involved and they also made time to pay their respects at the Canadian War Memorial, Vimy Ridge, 38th Welsh Division Memorial, Mametz Wood and the memorial at Thiepval, which is dedicated to the 73,367 missing men of the Somme.

The cadets also paid their respects to the war dead at the cemeteries: in Tyne Cot, Passchendaele, and Langemarck.

Officer Commanding 372 Squadron, Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, concluded: "It was a very busy few days with an enormous amount of travelling. However, the cadets all felt that it was a worthwhile and emotional experience.

"Seeing the battlefields and memorials at first hand brings history closer to our present and not just left in the past. The men who died for their counties will not be forgotten by these cadets.

"The visit would not have taken place without the support of the Big Lottery, which provided a grant towards transport costs."

JASON HORTON

No 2 Canadian Cemetery at Vimy Ridge.

Keiren Long in deep thought.

Oliver Lofthouse at the Vimy Ridge Memorial.

WHAT'S ON/*in brief*

Church lunches

LADIES of the parish of All Saints Church, Barry, affectionately known as the 'Soup Gang', have organised another series of autumn lunches on November 1, 8, 15, 22.

They take place in the church hall at the rear of the church from 12noon. Selection of soups with bread roll, pudding with custard or cream, followed by tea or coffee. Payment on the door £5. *All proceeds in aid of the the All Saints organ appeal.*

Church fayre

THE St Paul's Church Hall, Barry, fayre takes place this Saturday, November 3, at 2pm, packed with goods all at low prices. Stalls include Christmas gifts.

Admission for children is free (adults 50p). All proceeds are in aid of church funds.

Autum fayre

THIS Saturday, November 3, the Children's Society holds its autumn fayre in the Paget Roms, Penarth, from 10am-12noon.

Admission 50p, including coffee/tea and biscuits. All welcome.

Short film warns of the dangers of illegal fireworks

SOUTH Wales and Mid and West Fire and Rescue Service have launched their firework safety campaign with a 'Pay the Price' short film, illustrating the consequences of using illegal fireworks.

It supports their zero tolerance approach of the sale of illegal Fireworks.

They are working with their partners throughout Wales to promote a range of safety messages during the bonfire period this year.

The main objective is to stop members of the public from purchasing illegal fireworks and encourage everyone to attend official and organised bonfire and firework events for a safe and enjoyable evening.

The video is available to download from their websites, and also via the SWFRS Fire Crime Unit App. This is the first Fire and Rescue Service App in the UK and is completely free to download.

Last year, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service seized more than half a ton and in excess of £10,000 worth of illegal fireworks. It points out that these illegal fireworks are often sold on to the public at a lower price than the shops and supermarkets.

Not only are these fireworks extremely dangerous and capable of causing serious injury, they are often imported from abroad and do not conform to British Standards. They are also stored by unlicensed vendors and cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds each year.

Head of Fire Crime Unit at South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Garry Davies, said: "Illegal fireworks can be highly dangerous as they have not been through the same safety checks as legal fireworks and do not conform to British Standards. The 'Pay the Price' film will show the devastating effects illegal fireworks can have on the user and those around them.

"Even when using legal fireworks at private parties, this can still be dangerous if the fireworks code is not followed properly.

"We urge members of the public to stay safe this fireworks night and attend an official organised display, which are a lot safer."

YOUNG AND OLD REVEL IN THE FUN OF COWBRIDGE FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

PHOTOGRAPHS
by **GLYN EVANS**

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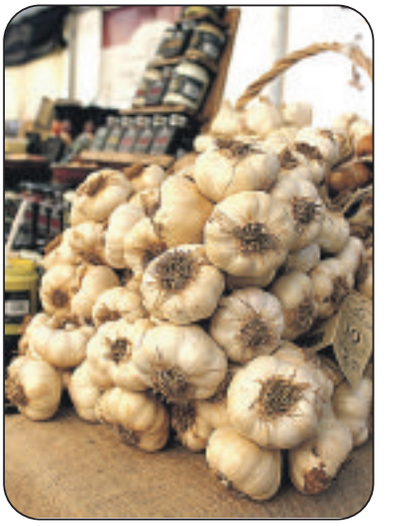
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

COWBRIDGE Food and Drink Festival continues to be a shining beacon for all that is good in Welsh cuisine.

One of the features of the day was that it is not just adult 'foodies' who are attracted to the event, lots of children are keen to see the huge variety of products on offer.

Photographer Glyn Evans captured people of all generations enjoying the friendly atmosphere, and the 'homage' to food and drink!

ABOVE: Pedal power made smoothies at the festival!



Thousands of people converge on Cowbridge for good food and drink!

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

Photographs by MIKE WILCOCK

THE Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival again showcased its growing popularity over the weekend, as thousands poured into the town to indulge in culinary delights.

Being new to The GEM, it was this writer's first sojourn to the festival, so I was excited to discover what was on offer.

The sights and smells adorning the tables and counters were a treasure trove, with the finest cuts of meat, golden pie crusts, wild and wacky cheeses, sharp and bitter ales, and sweet treats begging to be purchased.

The craft and fringe sights offered much to browse, including the fledgling Cowbridge Radio team providing live music throughout the two days.

The former attraction showcased plenty of hand-made arts and crafts for the most forward-thinking of Christmas shoppers, while those selling hats, scarves and gloves probably got quite a bit of trade from visitors who may have come unprepared for the sharp temperatures.

The weather was kinder on the Saturday, and as a result it was the busier of the two days.

The crowds wandered the attractions enjoying themselves with smiles on their faces and a happy atmosphere.

Sunday was greeted by dark clouds and misty skies, but the weather held off for a while, meaning early visitors managed to avoid the downpours.

The stall holders were again in fine spirits despite a long day on Saturday, and were quick to point out to visitors the delights to keep an eye out for.

One companion relied on a cup of mulled wine to keep her blood flowing, and was unprepared for the alcoholic strength of the brew!

Organisers were jubilant with how things went. Festival chairman John Davies said: "We were delighted with yet another fantastic event with a great atmosphere in the town throughout the weekend.

"The attendances have been increasing year on year – we had 14,000 people in 2011, and although not quite matching those record numbers this year everyone seemed to have a great weekend.

"The weather always plays a part in visitor numbers and Saturday's bright and sunny conditions saw a record amount of visitors through the gate.

"Sunday was a much wetter affair, but that left more room for seasoned festival-goers to browse the stalls.

"We had great feedback from visitors and exhibitors. It's been a difficult 12 months for many small producers who have been hit by problems with the weather and the economy, but a bumper festival weekend goes some way to helping them get back on track.

"I'd also like to extend thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's event such a success."

Vale AM Jane Hutt also popped in to see the fruits of the county's producers, and she commented: "It was great to hear the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones praise the town of Cowbridge last week in the Senedd, for its thriving High Street, strengthened by events like the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival."

A spokeswoman for the British Heart Foundation thanked The GEM for its help in fundraising over the weekend.

She said: "Thank you so much on behalf of British Heart Foundation for giving us the opportunity to be at The Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival at the weekend – we had a great time!

"We all worked very hard and are so very grateful. We took £750 on Saturday and have yet to count Sunday's money."

Crowds flock to Cowbridge as the food and drink festival becomes a 'must' destination

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
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AS usual, there was something for everyone at the Cowbridge Festival of Food and Drink.

For cooks who were keen to improve their technique, there were demonstrations from professional chefs.

Elsewhere, there were wine tastings, entertainment for young and old, and enough mouth-watering food to set any diet back six weeks!

TV presenter Frances Donovan introduced the chefs who were demonstrating their skills to appreciative audiences.

ABOVE, ABOVE RIGHT, and BELOW: Traders were tempting festival-goers with a wide variety of dishes.

Cowbridge's gourmet festival gives visitors a taste of the best that Wales has to offer!

COWBRIDGE is getting its breath back after another hectic weekend as, once again, it became the centre of the culinary world in Wales.

One look at the crowd (right) enjoying the entertainment in the champagne marquee shows what an enjoyable event it was – whether your taste was for gourmet food, real ale, or fine wine.

With more areas of the town involved than ever before, it just keeps getting better and better.!

Photographs by
MIKE WILCOCK

ABOVE: Jan Chapman of The GEM with specially made shopping bags.

BELOW: Lucy Owen with members of the British Heart Foundation, which was the festival's official charity.

BELOW: The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Nicola Thomas, and her consort, Coun Andrea Burges (left) held a drinks reception in the Mayor's Parlour.

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Llantwit Major Autocentre celebrates its 15th Anniversary

Peter Johns, Managing Director of Llantwit Major Autocentre, Is celebrating 45 years in the motor trade. Over the years he has gained vast experience in the industry. Peter believes his success is due to his progressive and professional approach to business, backed up with a well trained and highly motivated staff.

Part of Peters success, is due to his alliance with Lyndon Smith of L.D.S. Motor Factors, Barry, Lyndon being his main parts supplier.

Peter said, "Over the years we have come to rely on Lyndon for his help and technical support backed by excellent service."

Workshop Manager, Chris Stabler, greatly trusted by Llantwit Autocentre customers, has been head of their workshop team for many years and is well respected by all staff, which includes two technicians, an MOT tester and an apprentice.

Sarah Barlow, Company Secretary, who founded the company 15 years ago with Peter, has worked alongside him for 22 years and heads their extremely efficient administration team.

Over the past 15 years there have been giant leaps in automotive technologies which as a progressive company they have managed to be able to maintain the newest of vehicles to a dealer level by investing in the latest diagnostic equipment. They have invested substantially in Common Rail Diesel Systems making them specialists in this field, authorised by Delphi, who are the major diesel system manufacturers in the UK. This adds to their already comprehensive garage services, which include:

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NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT Y BONT FAEN SCHOOL

It's been an extra busy term for all!

Community Links

WE are very proud of our links with the community, and this has been extended to welcome the Waitrose family into Cowbridge.

We have been working very closely with the partners of the store, Kier Construction and Midas Construction, on enhancing our school outdoor areas and the Y Bont Faen family would like to thank all three partners for their help.

Over half-term, all three will be working with Mrs Adams and Mr Griffiths to create a new outdoor learning experience for the pupils.

We hope this will be the start of a wonderful relationship between the school and the store, and look forward to welcoming the new manager as a member of the Y Bont Faen family.

We have also been the proud hosts of both Forces Fitness and mini rugby every week on the school field. Forces Fitness is on (regardless of the weather!), every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Your first week is free of charge, and it is an excellent way to get fit in the fresh air. Full details of how to join and times are available on the school website.

Our mini rugby sessions have been running since September. As the weather is getting colder, the sessions are moving indoors to a barn in Llantwit, but will be returning to the school in April.

Our harvest festival was once again, well supported by our families, with the pupils bringing in a large array of produce. We shared our bounty between two charities – Help The Aged, which was kindly represented by Mr David Weber and The Holy Cross Church Food Bank.

The nursery parents were treated to a morning of song, poetry and creative music by the whole school – proving once again that the Y Bont Faen family values the creative arts, as well as the academic subjects.

The rugby squad.

Scarecrows

WE have also been taking part in various scarecrow festivals during this term, with our scarecrow finally coming to rest outside Strawberry Fields in the high street.

This has been a wonderful opportunity for the school's Eco Club, Gardening Club and Textile Club to work together to produce a fantastic scarecrow! Da iawn pawb for your brilliant work!

Creative Arts

OUR pupils are always willing to perform, both for the school and wider community.

This term has proved no exception, with the pupils in year-6 performing with both Diversions Dance and the Shakespeare in Schools Festival.

The pupils visited the Dance House and took part in an interactive workshop with professional dancers.

This is an annual event for the school and one that we treasure, as we are also very proud to welcome Diversions into the school to work with our pupils.

The pupils will be performing *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Richard Burton Theatre in the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in November, and are in the final throes of rehearsal.

The pupils have created the costumes and props, and have directed the lighting and sound effects. We can't wait to see the final performance in November.

A huge diolch to the pupils for their hard work and to Miss Jones for helping them.

Rugby

OUR rugby team played in their first tournament last week against other schools within the cluster.

They played four games in total and won…four games! Da iawn to all who took part and a special diolch to Mr Cottle for coaching them.

Sharing Day

OUR headboys and girls, together with the Criw Cymraeg (our Welsh language group who encourage Welsh throughout the school), helped Mr Griffiths host our 'Sharing Day' last week.

More than 140 parents sat with their children, looked at their work and chatted about their learning.

The head girls, boys and Criw Cymraeg served refreshments and collected pupils from their classes to come and share their work. The parents who attended had nothing but praise for the group of pupils who helped and proved once again, how brilliant the Y Bont Faen family is!

A fond farewell… and a warm welcome

THE Bont Faen family will be saying goodbye to a long-serving member of the team at Christmas.

Mr Lloyd, the deputy headteacher, will be taking early retirement, in order to enjoy some well-deserved free time. Mr Lloyd has been a prominent figure at the school for many years, serving alongside three different headteachers, as well as a kaleidoscope of staff.

Although we are very sad to be saying 'hwyl fawr', we know that it is not truly goodbye, as Mr Lloyd will always be a valued member of the Y Bont Faen family and we hope to see him often.

Mrs Adams will become the deputy headteacher after his departure, while the school goes through the difficult process of replacing him.

We are also proud to welcome into the Y Bont Faen family, Mr Graeme Jones, from Coed Duon Primary School as our new year-3 teacher in January.

Mr Jones will be visiting the school over the coming half-term, to meet and get to know his class and to give all at Y Bont Faen the opportunity to meet him, too!

The pupils with the scarecrow that they made to enter a festival.

St Donats Atlantic Chorale prepares for first complete work

ABOVE: St Donats Atlantic Chorale members emulate pop immortals The Beatles on Cowbridge High Street.

THIS Sunday (November 4) St Donats Atlantic Chorale will perform its first full oratorio (Haydn's 'Creation') at the Bradenstoke Hall in St Donats Castle at 6.30pm.

Established in 2009 as a 'no audition needed' community choir, the St Donats Atlantic Chorale have been entertaining audiences for more than three years with a varied repertoire of traditional choral works and a range of contemporary songs. This is the first time they will perform a complete work.

The choir's director Carl Grainger said: "I am thrilled with the way the choir has developed and taken up the challenge to be the best that it can be.

"This is a first for us and we're very excited indeed. We've excellent guest soloists and musicians, and so the audience can look forward to a night of music that will be as beautiful as it is dramatic.

"We hope to have a large audience to perform to – so we're actively encouraging the community to support us by attending."

Tickets are available from St Donats Arts Centre on 01446 799100, or via: www.stdonats.com. If you would like more details on getting involved with the choir, visit: www.stdonats.org.uk.

Gwenda Williams

Title joy for Wayfarers

THE Southerndown Golf Club ESP Wayfarers (handicaps between 10 and 18) have won their league this year, playing 12 games and winning 8.

The team were unbeaten on the hallowed home soil of the Ogmore Downs but the key to their success was that they could always field a strong team away from home, where they always picked up valuable away points.

In one of the toughest leagues in south Wales, which included local rivals Pyle and Kenfig, St Mary's and Brynhill, the triumphant Southerndown team proved to be insurmountable to all opponents and won the league with a margin of three points.

The team has now been promoted to the Premier League next season which includes all of this year's champions from the other leagues.

There were many notable individual performances this year with Paul Rees (ex-Bridgend Athletic RFC stalwart) proving himself to be the best Wayfarer in Wales by winning the annual Wayfarers Charity Day in August at Pontypridd.

The organisational driving force of the cherished secretary and treasurer Brian O' Hare proved to a paramount in keeping the all-conquering squad together and turning up at the correct venues.

JC

Hats off to the vicar for 'enthralling' talk!

ST HILARY WI NEWS

THE monthly meeting was held on October 9 at St Hilary Village Hall, where members were entertained by the Rev Malcolm Davies, retired, who used to be the vicar at Llancarfan and Llantrithyd.

His talk was simply named 'Hats', and was based on his wonderful collection of every kind of hat imaginable.

This is not just any collection, however, as each hat has a personal memory for Malcolm.

Many anecdotes were hilarious and some more poignant, but all were enthralling.

The Rev Malcolm has been collecting hats for at least 60 years and he showed members upward of 30 of them.

He started with a fun hat made for the Diamond Jubilee, comprising a carousel, complete with rotation motor.

He then went on with such hats as a Scout hat, pith helmet (from a railwayman in South Africa), a Guinness hat, a very smart bowler hat, and several Australian bushman's hats.

The evening ended with a vote of thanks to Malcolm, followed by refreshments.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, at the same venue.

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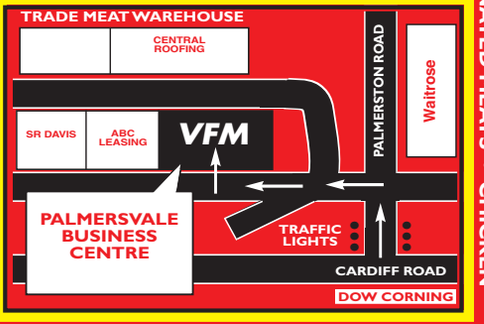

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Out and About with The GEM

Beach watch

Art4U Community Arts Group is holding an event to celebrate the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, with an illuminated installation on the beach and hot soup, to remember ancestors and the recently passed on November 1 from 5pm at The Knap Pebble Beach, Barry.

Contact www.art4uwales.org.uk

Valeways walks

Sunday, November 4, at 2.30pm, 'Heritage Trail', starting at Llantwit Major Old Town Hall.

Tuesday, November 6, at 1.30pm, 'coast and parks', Penarth Cliff Top car park.

Sunday, November 11. at 2pm, 'rail track and parks', starting at Penarth Cliff Top car park.

CAB clinics

THE Citizens Advice Bureau is holding weekly clinics at its centre on Broad Street, Barry, offering free advice on discrimination issues.

It is available on Thursdays, with a drop-in service between 9.30am and 11.30am.

AM's surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will hold an advice surgery at Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, on Friday, November 2, between 1pm and 2pm.

Shakatak are back

FOUR original members of the 1980s jazz funk band Shakatak will perform their hits at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on Friday, November 2, at 7.30pm.

Bill Sharpe, Jill Saward, Roger Odell and George Anderson will be joined by a guitarist and a backing vocalist/saxophonist in a vibrant live act, combining astute musicianship with a sense of fun!

Opportunities evening

FRIENDS of Belvedere Park are hosting an 'opportunities evening' on Friday, November 2, between 6.30pm-8.30pm at Castleland Community Centre, Barry.

Opportunities available include all aspects of gardening, from basic to advanced level; design and artwork for planted areas; helping with organising/running fundraising events and activities; publicity and promotion, including producing videos and digital promotional material and maintain Belvedere Park website – and any other support that can be given to the Friends of Belvedere Park.

Treasure hunt quiz with prizes, refreshments available.

Further information from Jean on 01446 403549.

Autumn fayre

THE Parish of Merthyr Dyfan with St Paul's, Barry, is hosting an autumn fayre on Saturday, November 3, from 2pm-4pm at St Paul's Hall, St Paul's Avenue, Barry.

Adults: 50p, children: free. Children's lucky dip – £1, with a present for every child. Home-made cakes stall, books, CDs and DVDs, bottle stall, hand crafted Christmas cards and gifts, preserves, jams, and pickles, grand raffle, bric a brac, jewellery stall, toiletries, refreshments.

History society lecture

THE Cowbridge and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, November 2, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge; 'GI involvement in south Wales' by Glenn Booker. All welcome.

Wick surgery

WICK Community council surgery will be held at the village hall on Wednesday, November 7, between 6pm and 7pm.

Flower club

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club will hold a meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, November 7, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, when Hilary West will give a demonstration entitled 'Be Prepared'.

Art demo

ON Thursday, November 8, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome Llantwit Major artist Nicola Davies, who will give a demonstration with ink and acrylic on paper.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm. Visitors welcome.

For full programme, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com

Two-minute silence

THE Vale Council will support the Royal British Legion's observance of a two-minute silence to commemorate Armistice Day by holding a wreath laying ceremony on Friday, November 9.

A short service will take place on the Civic Office forecourt, Barry, in front of the Merchant Seamen Memorial, when the deputy Mayor, political leaders and representatives of local organisations, will lay wreaths.

The start and end of the silence will be marked by the playing of the Last Post and Reveille, and the public are invited to attend from 10.45am.

Charity coffee

BRIDGEND county borough Mayor, Coun Marlene Thomas, holds a charity coffee morning on November 9 at 10am in Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

There will be an art display and gift stalls, a cake stall with pupils from Heronsbridge School and Mandy's Kitchen and Llangewydd School Choir.

Tickets (£5) include coffee and biscuits/cake.

For further information, please contact 01656 664105.

Tondu art

TONDU and District Art Society holds its 30th winter exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig, from 10am–6pm on November 10-13. Free admission. Call 01656 6661053.

St Illtyd craft fayre

THERE will be a Christmas craft fayre at St Illtyd Primary School, Station Road, Llantwit Major (near Co-op) on Thursday, November 15, from 6.30pm-9pm.

It includes craft stalls from all over south Wales with an opportunity to purchase some unique gifts. Free entry. Raffle, mince pies and mulled wine. Everyone welcome. All proceeds go to the PTA.

Contact 07855 148771 for further details.

Charity dance

THERE will be a charity rock 'n' roll dance in aid of Sandville on Friday, November 16, at the Bryntirion OCLP Club at 7.30pm.

Singer Dave Riley will be performing. Tickets £5 on the door.

Ynysawdre concert

YNYSAWDRE Village Hall presents an evening with the Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir on Friday, November 30, at 7pm.

Admission is £5, including homemade cake and tea or coffee.

For tickets, please call Mair on 01656 722115.

Recycling centre

THE Llandow and Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry HWRC sites are now open between 10am and 4pm, seven days a week.

Both sites will only be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, with winter opening times remaining at both sites until March 30, 2013.

If you are planning on taking a trailer, van or horse box onto the site, you will need to apply for a permit in advance.

You can do so by phoning 01446 700111.

Bond Ball for charity

TO celebrate the 50th birthday of James Bond and the release of the latest film Skyfall, Miskin Manor Hotel is hosting a Bond-themed black tie ball on Saturday, November 10, to raise money for the British Heart Foundation Cymru's 'Mending Broken Hearts' appeal, from 7pm.

Hosts for the evening will be BBC Wales presenters Lucy Owen and Rhodri Owen.

Sharon Owen, fundraising manager for British Heart Foundation Cardiff and south-east Wales, said: "By supporting events such as The 007 Ball for our Mending Broken Hearts appeal, you'll be helping to fund a groundbreaking research programme that could end the suffering caused by severe heart failure, forever.

"Help us raise the funds we need to continue this amazing research at this critical stage.

"We are grateful to The Miskin Manor Hotel for holding this event."

To book tickets, contact Mari on 01443 224204

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CAOS 40 Years
Do you fancy taking part in the musical 'Oklahoma'?
If so, come along to Ystradowen Village Hall on Thursday 8th November 2012 and join in the fun!!
For further information contact Jenny on 01446 713110

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Fresh from the field
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Skyfall-s... but earth doesn't move for this reviewer!

IT has been six years since Daniel Craig shook off the 'blonde Bond' tags and made the character of 007 seem fresh and vital again in *Casino Royale*, and four years since the underwhelming follow-up, *Quantum of Solace*, stripped away some of the momentum.

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

In the meantime, there have been false starts caused by studio instability, but James Bond finally returns, in his 50th anniversary year no less, in *Skyfall*.

This time round Bond, after being presumed killed in action, returns to help M (Judi Dench) when she loses vital information about undercover agents; information that a shadowy figure from her past, Raoul Silva (Javier Bardem), is intent on using to bring M, and the world, to their knees...

When James Bond was rebooted in 2006 with *Casino Royale*, it seemed to give the character a new lease of life. Harder-hitting, colder and less concerned with flashy, OTT histrionics, the Daniel Craig era landed with a bang, one that lessened slightly with *Quantum of Solace* two years later.

So with *Skyfall* there was much for Craig, and director Sam Mendes, to prove – was *Casino Royale* the template for the future or simply an aberration, albeit one that was a huge success.

What they have proved is that cinema is a dull place without the adventures of James Bond, but *Skyfall* isn't quite the riposte needed, particularly in the franchise's 50th year, the film feels underwhelming and slightly sluggish where it should be sprightly and full of life.

Three films in and Daniel Craig looks the part of 007 without a doubt, melding Fleming's written Bond to his stoic personality. Craig seems relaxed and his performance is charming, but also hints at the chinks in the character's armour, looking inward far more than any other Bond has done.

Bond's journey here is more personal than professional and Craig handles the quieter moments solidly without over-extending himself.

The main acting plaudits here go to Javier Bardem who delivers an incredible villain, and Judi Dench who, on her seventh Bond outing, finally gets something juicy to get her teeth stuck into.

Bardem can do chilling villainy with ease, as *No Country For Old Men* attested, but add in flamboyance, a malevolence that simmers rather than boils, and seemingly Christopher Walken's hair from *A View To A Kill*, and you have a Bond villain worthy of that name.

Outlandish but rooted in reality, Bardem is the best adversary 007 has faced in recent memory, and the actor delivers an outstanding turn.

Dench, meanwhile, gets the chance to shine, the film focussing on her past misdemeanors and her relationship with Bond, and the actress offers a wonderful turn that strikes an emotional note amidst the bombast.

There are rich pickings among the support cast – Ben Whishaw, Naomie Harris and Ralph Fiennes all marking their first outings in the franchise with satisfying turns, with Albert Finney making a pleasing appearance in the final act.

While Sam Mendes is steeped in Bond lore, his first outing in the director's chair is good, but not great.

Certainly, he has a handle on the action sequences, with some looking absolutely incredible, particularly a Shanghai-set mission.

His strength really lies in dealing with actors, and given the dramatic heft required here he proves a canny choice, marshalling the story and the performances well.

The real disappointment comes from the screenplay, which fails to balance the intriguing strand of Bond being a man out of time and his relationship with M with the common, and episodic, globe-trotting adventures that feel less interesting than the sub plots.

It would a brave move indeed to concentrate solely on the characters and their motivations without throwing in the action that is par for the course for this franchise, but one that would have been rather more fulfilling.

Not quite the 50th birthday present you would have wanted, Skyfall isn't an awful film, and ticks the boxes that every Bond film should tick; but with the people involved, you would have expected something a bit more invigorating than a reheating of the franchise's best moments with some (admittedly top level) drama thrown into the mix.

VERDICT – Bond is back, but he has been better. Skyfall isn't, however, a bad return for the super spy, just underwhelming. With very strong turns from Javier Bardem and Judi Dench, and Daniel Craig oozing the essence of 007, the film doesn't fall short on acting quality, but a leaden plot enlivened by far more interesting and intriguing subplots, means that 007's licence to thrill is not in full effect here. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Casino Royale (2006), Goldfinger (1964)

The special brooch designed by Cowbridge's Carrie Elspeth.

Special designer brooch for Ty Hafan

CHILDREN'S hospice Ty Hafan is set to benefit from Cowbridge-based designer Carrie Elspeth producing a limited edition brooch, incorporating its logo, in a beautiful combination of pewter and crystal.

Carrie said: "As a mother of three, I have a real personal interest in the work that Ty Hafan does.

"I think it is an incredible organisation doing wonderful work for families in Wales.

"I am so proud to be involved, even in a small way."

You can also buy Ty Hafan Christmas cards online at: christmascards.tyhafan.org/, or call: 01446 721544.

For more information, visit: www.tyhafan.org.

Art4U celebration of Samhain festival

ART4U Community Arts Group are holding an event to celebrate the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain today (November 1) from 5pm onwards at The Knap pebble beach, Barry.

Join us for an illuminated installation on the beach and some hot soup, and to remember our ancestors, and recently passed.

Use the fire to reflect and think about the future while the dark nights start to draw in.

Donations warmly welcomed. Weather-permitting event – the original event on Sunday October 28 was cancelled as the weather was awful!

For more information, visit: www.art4uwales.org.uk, or email: christie@art4uwales.org.uk. **CL-B**

GEM papergirl makes the next round of national competition

GEM delivery girl Carrianne Rogers was among three acts from Barry and one from Bridgend who made it through to the next stage of the Open Mic UK national talent competition – placing them two steps away from performing at London's O2 Arena.

Carrianne Rogers and her trophy for best original song at the Open Mic singing competition. The Judges reviews were obtained from the Open Mic Facebook page.

The regional final took place on Saturday October 20 in the Coal Exchange in Cardiff. With 25 acts in the 17-22-year-old category the competition was tough, but 17-year-old Carrianne came sailing through it.

The event was well-attended, with Carrianne's mum Kay Rogers commenting: "There were people struggling to get a seat as the night progressed."

Not only did she secure a place in the Area Final, taking place in Reading's Sub89 club on Sunday, December 2, but she also scooped the prize for the best original song for her tune 'Ghosts', which she performed on the night.

Carrianne was in a state of shock to win the prize but totally thrilled about it, with judges commenting:

"*Love this girl's demeanour, the original song is great. Lovely tone and made the cover her own. Nice vocal and narrative in the song. Liked the blend in the voice.*"

Barry's Luke Brown also made it through to the next stage.

Judges said of Luke: "*Good start, delivering the vocal with punch but guitar sounded out of tune. Great tone to his vocal, really rich and full. Try to get a little more core sound into the voice to give the song balance.*"

Barry Comprehensive School pupils, and friends of Carrianne's, 'Back to November' are also through to the Area Finals.

Judges commented: *"Vocally very good, but expression of the guitar players is of solid poker players and not very engaging. Show you're enjoying it!*

"Perhaps the vocalists should line up in the middle to be the focal vision of the act."

Bridgend-based act Davie are also through to the next round in Reading.

With a good following for each act they are considering hiring some minibuses for the Area Final.

Carrianne will also be making an appearance with a few of her own songs at an open day for a new playgroup in Barry – Phillybears – on Saturday, November 24 at the Scout Hall on Everard Street from 11am.

There will be free tea, coffee, squash and home-made cakes available. Tickets will be available at this event for the Area Finals, priced at £9.

They can also be purchased by emailing: *krogers17@talktalk.net*, or by messaging either me or Carrianne Rogers through Facebook. You can check out the video Carrianne has made for the song 'Ghosts' via YouTube.

KAY ROGERS

Rotarians taken into the heart of Moulin Rouge

Pictured are Rotary president Andrew Lane, Rachel Williams, and Rotarian Malcolm Wheeler.

COWBRIDGE Rotary Club had a wonderful evening's entertainment on October 29 from Rachel Williams – formerly one of the legendary Bluebell Girls.

As a young girl, Rachel had the confidence to walk into the Paris Lido and ask if they were recruiting for the girls. They were – and she got a job on the spot!

She told a fascinated audience just what it was like to work as one of these famous dancers; the heavy headdresses, the pancake make-up, the long hours of practice, and all those dances – precisely choreographed involving feathers, sequins, snakes, camels, waterfalls, laser lights and very high heels.

She danced, she sang and worked long hours – an early night was a 3.30am finish.

But she was living the dream, and became principal dancer at the rival Moulin Rouge before returning to London and working in the West End production of 'Cats'.

She danced and sang her way through an hour of magical insights of life lived in the spotlight in front of a group of spellbound diners.

This was a soiree of Parisian chic with long Welsh legs that will be remembered for a long time to come. **AB**

Crossway Church playgroup may have photos of interest!

DURING the period 1974-96, many photographs were taken of the children at Crossway Church playgroup taking part in various activities at the end of the summer term, when were they leaving us to go to "big school".

We have some albums as a record of this, and we also have many surplus photographs, which we would love to give to parents rather than dispose of them.

We invite parents to call into Crossway Church Hall on Wednesday, November 7 between 2pm-3.30pm, where they can browse through spare photographs and albums, and have a cup of tea and a chat!

TERRY MARSDEN
Crossway Church playgroup

Micro chip your dog for free

DOG owners are being urged to take advantage of a special offer from Dogs Trust and Cardiff Dogs Home to get their dog microchipped for free at Cardiff Dogs Home on Penarth Road today (November 1) between 3pm and 7pm and tomorrow (November 2) 11am and 3.30pm.

Dogs Trust, which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend has teamed up with Cardiff Dogs Home to help as many dogs as possible, said spokeswoman Sian Edwards.

"We would like to urge dog owners to take advantage of this limited microchipping offer. We have seen an increase in the number of stray dogs in Wales this year, from 9,482 in 2011 to 10,230 in 2012 which shows the problem of stray dogs in the country is as prevalent as ever.

"If your dog does get lost, a microchip can enable you to be traced and reunited with it.

"While at Dogs Trust we never put a healthy dog to sleep, our rehoming centres are very stretched, so we constantly need to reach out to dog owners to help them get their dogs microchipped and neutered to help prevent the scores of stray and unwanted dogs we take in every year."

Cardiff Dogs Home is at Westpoint Industrial Estate, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8JQ.

Did you know you can now find The GEM on Facebook and Twitter? Follow us @gem_news ***or visit*** facebook.com/gem_news

MP achieves personal best in Cardiff Half Marathon and two Vale charities benefit

Alun Cairns MP with fellow runners from the Vale in the Cardiff Half Marathon and children who took part in the Fun Run.

MAKING his race debut in the field of more than 15,000 runners in the Cardiff Half Marathon was Vale MP Alun Cairns.

He made it home in 1 hour and 40 minutes to raise money for two charities based in the Vale – Atal y Fro (formerly known as Women's Aid) and MIND in the Vale.

Among others from the Vale, he met children from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge who took part in the family fun run.

The MP reported: "I really enjoyed running through the edge of the Vale in such great conditions and running along the barrage from Penarth to Cardiff was terrific in the sunshine!

"There were many runners from the Vale taking part in the event, which I think is a clear sign that there could be significant interest in staging a similar event in Barry, I'm certainly keen to push for such an event here in the Vale.

"I was particularly delighted to break my personal best, with a time of 1 hour 40 mins and 36 seconds!

"Following on from my fundraising activities with the London marathon earlier this year, the two charities I continued to support on this run were Atal y Fro and Mind in the Vale."

Join Jingle Bell Jog!

BRITISH Heart Foundation Cymru has teamed up with the Vale Council to organise the Vale's first Jingle Bell Jog, to help save lives in the area.

This family festive fancy dress event is open to everyone and you can either run, jog, walk or even jingle, for all ages and abilities around Barry Promenade on Sunday, December 16.

Meet outside the Dolphin pub. Registration either before the event or on the day at 10am, with a warm-up at 10.45am and the jog starts at 11am.

To book online, contact** bhf.org.uk/events. **For more information, contact Sharon Owen on 02920 382408.

'Look it up on 'Facebook' – local voters are advised!

VALE residents who wish to find out more about the forthcoming election for a South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday, November 15, are being directed to Facebook and Twitter.

A spokeswoman for the Vale Council said: "A Police and Crime Commissioner' will replace the South Wales Police Authority on November 22, and will be responsible for holding the chief constable and police force to account on the public's behalf and overseeing how crime is tackled in their area. (Commissioners) will also aim to make sure the police are providing a good service.

"The role of the Commissioner includes meeting the public regularly to listen to their views on policing, producing a police and crime plan setting out local policing priorities, deciding how the budget will be spent, and appointing chief constables and dismissing them if needed."

The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner will cover Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea and the Vale of Glamorgan.

From Pontyclun to Pen Cerrig Calch

ON a doubtful autumn morning, the Vale Ramblers met at Pontyclun public car park for a walk in the Black Mountains.

Off we set up towards Crickhowell, wondering what the weather would bring.

Going up north, we could see mist in the distance, and hoped that the sun would break through when we got to the start – which it did.

At the starting point, we met up with some members of the Taff Ely group, and set off on our walk.

It was obvious that the walk was going to be a wet and muddy one, as from 'the off' we were confronted with muddy lanes and muddy fields.

As we made our way to the summit of Pen Cerrig Calch, the path ran out, so we had to make our way up the hill, through bracken and heather.

This was hard going, especially on the lungs and leg muscles, but it was well worth the puffing and panting, as the views were spectacular; the peak of the Skirrid majestically making itself known through the low cloud, and other hills in the distance.

Making our way along the ridge, there was a cold wind, but the views were magnificent – this is obviously a popular route, as we met quite a number of other walkers.

Seeing the views towards Talygarth and Llangorse, Pen y Fan in the distance bathed in autumn sunshine, we felt very fortunate and this combined, with the autumn colours, made a perfect day.

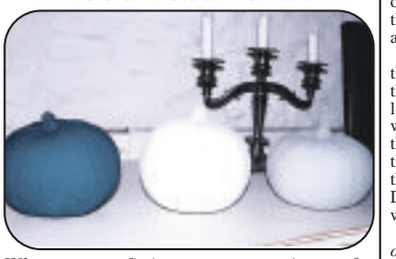
Coming down from the mountain was just as hard work as going up; there was no definitive path, so we had to make our way down through the lovely copper ferns and the heather.

Walking back along the low muddy track to the start, we were able to look across and see where we had climbed that morning, marvelling that we had completed the walk. Our thanks to Del Rees for leading the walk.

Further information on the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers is available on our website http://www.valeofglamorganramblers.org.uk/ or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Gwenda Fitzpatrick

Painted pumpkins adorn Cowbridge food festival...



What a fitting presentation for Peastyle.co.uk's stall at the Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival last weekend – the picture shows painted pumpkins in their favourite shades...Happy Hallowe'en everyone from all of the team!

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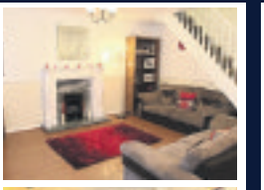
GROVE ESTATES

BERKROLLES AVENUE, ST ATHAN
- 3 bedroom semi detached property in polular location
- Gas central heating & aluminium double glazed
- Good size gardens to front and rear
- In need of renovation throughout
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£95,000



MEADOW VALE, BARRY
- A very well presented 3/4 bedroom semi detached property
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Off road parking
- An enclosed & low maintenance garden to rear
- Garage conversion with gallery room above

£175,000

REDBERTH CLOSE, BARRY
- A 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Private parking & driveway to front
- Conservatory
- Scope to extend subject to planning
- Viewings recommended

£127,500

SOUTH WALK, BARRY
- A good size 3 bedroom mid link property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Front & rear gardens
- Ideal first time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£94,950

EVERARD STREET, BARRY
- Larger than average bay fronted 2 bedroom property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Through lounge with open plan kitchen/diner
- Ideal for investment or first time purchase

£102,950

LLAN FARM, MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY
- An extended 5 bedroom detached property dating back to approx 1700's
- Landscaped front & rear gardens set on approx 1/3 of an acre
- Set in a quiet semi-rural location
- Off road parking with double garage
- Gas central heating & double glazed

£275,000

BRYN AWEL, BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY
- A 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
- Views across Bristol channel

£244,950

MOREL STREET, BARRY
- A well presented 3 double bedroom property in popular location of Barry
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Enclosed garden to rear
- Some original features remain
- Open to reasonable offers

£105,000

PLAS ESSYLLT, SUNNYCROFT LANE, DINAS POWYS
- Immaculately presented 2 bedroom 1st floor maisonette
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Private front & rear gardens
- Balcony with views over Dinas Powys towards Llandough
- Off road parking to front
- Set on no through road, offering short walk to semi-rural woodlands

£119,500

BASSETT STREET, BARRY
- A good size 3 bedroom mid terrace property close to town centre
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Low maintenance garden to rear
- Ideal first time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain.

£93,950

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NEW

HOWARD COURT, BARRY
First floor apartment. Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen/breakfast, family bathroom with freestanding shower cubicle. Garage/parking. Shared enclosed garden to front and rear.
£129,950

NEW

MIN Y MOR, BARRY
Three bedroomed, bay fronted semi. Sea views from front. Two reception rooms, conservatory, 2004 re-wired, 2003 re-roofed, 2003 replacement windows. Sigma 3 fitted wardrobes. Enclosed rear garden. Double garage.
£254,950

NEW

CORNWALL RISE, BARRY
Individually designed. Built approx 13 years ago. Spacious open plan living, newly fitted kitchen, elevated modern. Four double bedrooms, double garage. Attic room with two bedrooms, paved driveway.
£279,950

NEW SSTC

ST TEILO AVENUE, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached, living room, sitting room, ground floor bathroom, driveway, side access, enclosed rear garden.
£124,950

NEW PRICE

EITHINEN BER, BARRY
Three bedrooms, modern detached, master ensuite. Corner cul de sac position. Living room, dining room, conservatory, converted garage (sitting room), low maintenance gardens. Well presented.
£189,950

NEW PRICE

WYND STREET, BARRY
Two bedrooms. Bay fronted. Forecourted front. Immaculate presentation. Through living room. Modern fitted kitchen. Enclosed garden lane access. Ideal first time buy.
£109,500

NEW PRICE

COLDBROOK ROAD EAST, BARRY
3 bedrooms, bay fronted semi, Living room and dining room, Fitted kitchen, Driveway/side access. level enclosed garden. No chain.
£134,950

NEW PRICE

PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
Two bedrooms, semi detached, placed on a spacious plot, living room, kitchen/diner, conservatory, driveway. Private enclosed garden.
£145,000

NEW PRICE

WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
Traditional semi detached. garden suburb location. 2004 double extension to rear. Four bedrooms (master ensuite). Living room and dining room, kitchen/breakfast. wc cloakroom, garage. Enclosed rear garden backing onto woods.
£274,950

NEW PRICE

PALMERSTON ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional. Living room, dining room, fitted kitchen. First floor bathroom. Two bedrooms. Enclosed garden. No chain. Ideal first time buyer.
£92,950

NEW PRICE

MILTON ROAD, BARRY
Well presented. 3 bedroomed. Semi detached dwelling. living room, kitchen.diner. Ground floor bathroom. First floor wc. Ample parking to driveway. Enclosed rear garden.
£99,950

MERTHYR STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, 3 bedrooms and first floor bathroom. Through living room. No chain. Ideal first time buy. Gas CH via combi.
£89,950

KENILWORTH ROAD, BARRY
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Thank You

"THANK YOU"

Edna Hardie would like to thank her family and friends for all the lovely presents and cards she received for her 85th birthday, and for making it such a 'special' day.

Special thanks to Mrs & Mrs Christopher and staff of West House Hotel for the splendid repast and to Andrew for my special dessert.

Thank you one and all, Edna.

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Birthdays

3rd November, 2012
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Gen and family *xxx*

Happy 21st Birthday
to our wonderful daughter
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"Love you to the moon and back"
Love Mum, Dad, Bartley, Badger, Billy and Seren
x x x x

Family Notices

EDWARDS
Hubert

of Tregroes, Fishguard, formerly of Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major.

Beloved husband of the late Pat.
Dearly loved father of Mark and Sarah, father in law of Alex. Grandfather of Thomas, Finn and Joel.
The funeral service was held at St. David's Cathedral on Wednesday, October 31st.
Donations if desired for the Marie Curie Hospice, at Holme Tower Penarth c/o W.G.Bernard Mathias, Funeral Director, 64 New Street, St.Davids SA62 6SU

PICKFORD
Alan John

Passed away peacefully at Holme Tower, Penarth on 28 October 2012, Alan, of Llantwit Major.

Devoted husband of Rita and wonderful Dad to Andrea and Amanda, a special father-in-law to Hugh and Mike and a loving Pappa to Jasmine, George, Katie May and Christopher. He will be sadly missed by both family and friends.
Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday November 6 at 1.15pm.
Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Velindre Hospital c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please)

REGAN
Terence David

Maria, Sue, Carol and families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the beautiful flowers, cards and messages of sympathy received on our sad loss of Terry.

Thank to you Father Edmund Neizer for a lovely, caring service and to all who attended.
Thank you to WA Brown and Son for the kind and caring way they conducted the funeral.
Thanks to doctors and nurses at Ward 5, Princess of Wales Hospital for looking after Terry so well.

JONES
Jennifer

Jennifer Jones better known as Jane, passed away on the morning of October 8th just as the leaves were turning beautiful autumn shades.
Your brothers Jeff and Chris Bevan will always love you.

TUDGE
Harold Clive

Peacefully after a short illness on the 28th October 2012, Clive of Llantwit Major, dearly loved husband of Margaret and much loved father to David and Jackie, a loving grandfather to Helen and great grandfather to Reece. He will be sadly missed by family and friends. Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the service in Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium Barry on Thursday 8th November at 11.15.a.m. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please)

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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44

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44

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Imps celebrate 40th anniversary in style

CADOXTON IMPS AFC have this year been celebrating the magnificent milestone of 40 years since the club was first founded by Graham Harris back in 1972 with a team of 10-year-olds in the youth section of the old Barry & District League.

The team initially started under the name of Buttrills Rovers but Cadoxton Conservative Club provided the finance for the first shirts and as the boys were all little devils, the name of the club was born.

To celebrate this great achievement, the club have been organising a series of events throughout the year. The club recently held a successful 40th anniversary black tie ball at the Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry almost to the day 40 years ago when the 10-year-olds played their first competitive match.

More than 100 guests enjoyed a three-course dinner and wine with local band Taboo providing the live music entertainment and the disco. Thanks to Sid and the boys from Taboo for stepping in at short notice as the original band booked were unable to attend.

The club also raised funds on the night from a prize raffle and an auction so thanks are due to Lyndon Smith of LDS Motor Factors, Huw Thomas of McDonald's Restaurant (Barry) and Leigh Cogbill (under-16 manager) for provision of the main prizes. Thanks to everyone else who donated raffle prizes and thanks also to Mandy and Phil and their staff at the Masonic Hall.

Above are photographs from the evening featuring founder Graham Harris, current president Len Jones, current vice chairman Steve Gibbs, current chairman Martin Pursall, current secretary Gary Spierling and current welfare officer Alan Smith.

The second photograph is of some of that very first team from 1972 (all now looking considerably older!).

The WAGs are conspicuous by their absence from the photographs and would have made far prettier pictures in their beautiful ball gowns!

The club are updating their Cadoxton Imps History Book 1972/73 to 2007/08 as part of their 40th anniversary celebrations, so if you have any photographs that are not in the current edition of the history book then please contact the club to have them incorporated in the new and updated edition.

MARTIN PURSALL, CHAIRMAN

Amongst those pictured above are founder Graham Harris, current president Len Jones, current vice chairman Steve Gibbs, current chairman Martin Pursall, current secretary Gary Spierling and current welfare officer Alan Smith.

ABOVE: Some of the first players to represent Cadoxton Imps (or Buttrills Rovers as they were called at that time) looking somewhat older than they did that day 40 years ago!

Talent show

VALE'S GOT TALENT 2012 is being hosted at Gordon Bennetts, Broad Street, Barry with heats being held on November 4, 11, 18 and 25.

The semi-finals are on December 2 and 9, with the grand final on December 16: first prize – £500; second prize – £150; third prize – £50.

Any age welcome to enter! Ty Hafan will also be fundraising on the night.

To register, email: info@vrentertainment.co.uk.

Deadline

THE final date for entry to the Music in the Vale competition for young singers and instrumentalists is Monday, November 5.

All information and entry forms on the website: www.musicinthevale.org.uk.

The competition is on November 24 and 25 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Aberthin Road, with free concerts each evening to decide the winners in each category.

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Bees get help from Wales star Jamie!

BARRY Bees under-10s were joined by Welsh international Jamie Roberts for a training session on an extremely wet and cold Thursday night – but nothing could dampen the boy's enthusiasm or excitement!

The Welsh and Lions centre joined in with the boys as they went through their normal training drills, and then took part in a full-blooded match, giving the awestruck boys the benefit of his international experience.

The boys were keen to show off their skills, and despite the disparity in size did not shirk when it came to trying to stop the hard-running Welsh back.

Jamie was truly inspirational and despite the awful conditions his passion and commitment were contagious and the boys (as well as the mums!) were captivated.

After the training, and once everyone had thawed out, he held a question and answer session in the clubhouse; and yes the important question about his future with the Blues was asked, but he was understandably non-committal.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity arranged through the auspices of Admiral and Matt Lloyd, who is one of the Barry Bees parents.

Jamie gave the boys an excellent insight into the life of a professional and international rugby player; but he continually stressed that the most important thing was that the boys should enjoy their rugby and hopefully this is the key lesson that they will take away from what was a memorable evening.

For all budding Jamie Roberts', and for that matter Adam Jones', Barry Bees under-10s (year-5s) are always looking for new players.

We are a highly successful and friendly mixed ability team, and any potential new recruits should contact John Bale on 07870 419691.

JM

Rhoose lose out in 'battle of the Rovers'

RHOOSE Rovers FC were undone in gusty conditions at Pencoedtre as they lost 6-3 against a superb Barry Rovers team; Drew Barrett starred with two goals for Rhoose.

Manager Dave Walsh was left angered by his team's first half performance with three goals being conceded in the first 20 minutes after some slick football being played by the home team.

The main threats of Rowe, Barrett and Vinson failed to materialise with Barry showing some impressive defensive displays.

Ten minutes before the interval saw the home side extend their lead even further with a 'goal of the month' contender; the ball finding the top corner of the net from 30 yards out.

Rhoose managed to pull a goal back after a free-kick, taken by Powell, found Barrett who scrambled the ball over the line a few minutes before half-time.

After being dealt the 'hair-dryer treatment' by the manager, Rhoose Rovers looked a completely different team and started to show glimpses of potential.

While taking advantage of the blustery winds, the visitors began creating chances.

However, switching to a more attacking formation left spaces in defence and despite pulling two goals back; the first coming from the head of Walsh after a corner from Byrne and the second coming from Barrett after another corner from Baker, Barry scored two of their own to secure victory.

Team: Jake Birkenhead, Darren Price, Joe Walsh, Lee Dixon, Dale Trickett, Aidan Byrne, Sion Tucker, Chris Vinson, Jonny Powell, Josh Rowe, Drew Barrett. Substitutes: Ashley Baker (60'), Liam Byrne (65'), Luke Solomon (75').

AB

Rhoose under-14s' five-star performance

RHOOSE under-14s started the game against Cowbridge with a high tempo and were soon on the attack with Daniel Cope making a darting run down the wing to set up Josh Brown, whose first-time effort was well saved by the Cowbridge keeper.

Jay Coles found himself in space outside the box and his superb strike found the top corner to give Rhoose the lead.

Cowbridge created a number of chances, but Dylan White and Ryan Hughes were solid in defence, making several last-ditch tackles.

Rhoose increased their lead when Cameron Leach dribbled his way through a number of challenges before curling the ball around the oncoming keeper.

In the second half, Matt Cottington used his blistering pace to get in behind the Cowbridge defence and scored with a powerful strike. Cowbridge pegged one back with a well-worked move from a free-kick.

Lee Bartlett was unlucky when his volley was blocked on the line. Edward Thomas had a terrific game in defence with great positional play to reduce the number of Cowbridge attacks.

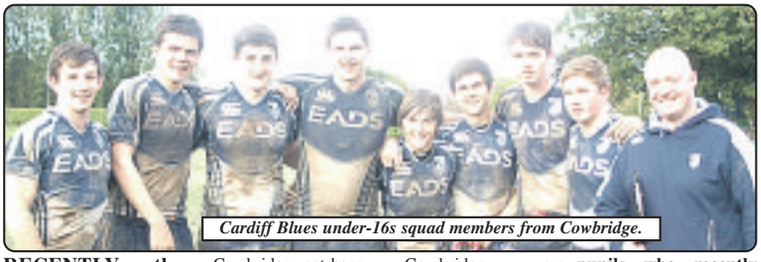
Michael Wilson played an intricate through ball into the path of Patrick O'Carroll, whose long range effort was brilliantly saved by the Cowbridge keeper, but Cameron Leach followed in and managed to steer the ball home for his hat-trick.

Harry Morgan-Grant was called into action on several times in the Rhoose goal and tipped several strikes around the post. Cowbridge ended the game with another well-deserved goal to make the final score 5-2.

MB

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

Cup progress for year-7 footballers



Cardiff Blues under-16s squad members from Cowbridge.

RECENTLY, the year-7 football team played St Teilos in the second round of the Welsh Schools Cup.

After their convincing win against Llantwit in the previous round confidence was high, and Cowbridge were looking to put in another good performance.

At the start of the game, it was evident that this fixture was going to be a lot more difficult. St Teilos had a number of Newport County players, and were showing their comfort on the ball. Cowbridge took no notice of this, and Logan Roach led the attack.

The Cowbridge midfield were controlling the game, commanding the middle of the park, making sure that the majority of the possession stayed on their side.

Logan picked up the ball around the half-way line, and with some excellent dribbling skills, made his way into the St Teilos box. He pushed the ball to his weaker side, and smashed the ball with his right foot.

It flew into the bottom corner, and Cowbridge had opened the scoring inside five minutes.

St Teilos were playing some great football themselves, supplying effective long balls over and through the defence, only for Harri Hartmann to bravely dive at the strikers' feet to steal the ball away from them.

The second goal was again scored by Logan Roach. Superb interplay between Edward Lewis, Alex Brooks and Cameron Gauci set the ball free on the left wing.

Cameron galloped down the flank and whipped in an excellent cross, which Logan dismissed into the back of the net with a high, looping header. The score was now 2-0 and Cowbridge were looking good for the win.

Right at the end of the half, St Teilos put in another great ball over the defence. With Cowbridge convinced offside was going to be called, they switched off. St Teilos capitalised on this and slotted the ball towards goal and, despite Jack Dixon's best effort, he could not backtrack and keep the ball out.

Cowbridge, not happy conceding a goal so late on in the half, instantly went back into attack mode. The ball was crossed into the box by George Cuddiyh, and it was partially cleared by the defence.

The ball bounced on the edge of the box, in front of Ben Jones, who hit the ball on the half volley. The ball flew into the top corner for an outstanding goal which is front runner for goal of the season.

At half-time the score was 3-1 and Cowbridge started the second half in the same manner. Barney L-Cryer, Michael Bosley, Lewis Hawke, Mitchell Stimson-Jagger, and Jack Dixon were keeping the St Teilos attack at bay, while Cameron, Alex, Edward, Logan and George were terrorising the defence, with Ben causing havoc.

Cowbridge were unlucky not to score three or four goals in the first 15 minutes, with the ball always going agonisingly close. Cowbridge were then awarded a penalty, which was excellently saved by the 'keeper.

St Teilos then came back again with a goal and it made for a tense ending to the game.

Cowbridge stayed strong, and kept St Teilos out. The game was won, and what a great game.

Well done year-7, you played some excellent football and it is brilliant to see the team taking shape. Players of the match: Logan Roach and Alex Brooks-Bent.

SD

RUGBY

THE photograph (above) shows some of the year-11 Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupils who recently competed for the Cardiff Blues under-16 squad.

The team won by 50 points against North Wales. Cowbridge has the biggest number of representatives in the squad of any school in Cardiff and the Vale, and this season also represents the highest number of pupils that Cowbridge has ever had involved in this squad.

Squad members include: *Adam Dix, Dan Holder, Harry Dowell Bennett, Joe Gaughan, Aaron Bowman, Tom Higgins, Harry Goodfellow, Alex Guard, Nicky Griffiths and Josh Thomas*.

The school also have two players involved in the Cardiff Blues under-16 development squad: Matt Lock and Jack Whitaker.

NT

Summer competition a hit with Barry skittlers

LEFT to RIGHT: Alex Campbell, club chairman and tournament organiser, Rose Dawe, Simon Barnsley, captain of Barney's Bombers, Andrew Hillard. Steff Germon, captain of the Tynewydd Lads, was not available.

THE Barry Dock Liberal Club recently held it's annual skittle competition, which was played throughout the summer months and held on a league basis.

The prizes were given out by Alex Campbell, club chairman and tournament organiser on Saturday October 27, before the commencement of the evening entertainment.

The highest men's score was 36 by Andrew Hillard of the Tynewydd Lads. The highest ladies' score was 33 by Rose Dawe of View the Dragon. Both players received £100 for their respective highest scores.

The tournament has been running since 2006 and has been growing in popularity each year and it is hoped that in 2013 many more teams will enter.

The club would like to express their thanks to all of the teams that entered, the competition was played with a friendly spirit throughout and all of the teams thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A special mention must be made for the White Witches, who had a 100 per cent losing record. They enjoyed themselves immensely, their motto being: 'It's not the winning, but the taking part that counts'.

Final standings: First – Tynewydd Lads, 39 points; second – Barney's Bombers, 33 points; third – Exiles, 33 points; fourth – Crazies, 28 points; fifth – Keith's Girls, 24 points; sixth – 49'ers, 24 points; seventh – Royalists, 22 points; eighth – Smurfs, 22 points; ninth – Alternatives, 21 points; 10th – Commanchies, 21 points; 11th – Don't Get Very Fars, 15 points; 12th – View the Dragon, 12 points; 13th – Bazzer's Best, 10 points; 14th – Libby's Girls, nine points; 15th – White Witches, 0 points.

Alex Campbell
Organiser

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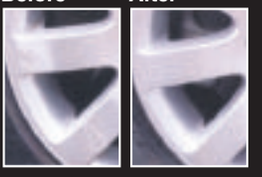

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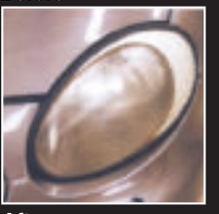

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All geared up for cold weather!

LYNDSAY at The Vale Funeral Service is "proud" to have provided a Pan disability football club based in the Vale with outdoor wet weather jackets.

Lyndsay said: "I have always supported causes in the community since becoming an established funeral director in Barry and the Vale. My commitment will continue and I am pleased that I could do this."

Pan disability team members have differing impairments but play together, regardless of their limitations.

With the donation of wet weather training jackets, the team will be able to train outside during the colder weather on organised special training days.

The club has thanked Lyndsay and The Vale Funeral Service for their support. LE

Spooky goings-on for young Dinas Powys footballers

A BIG thank you goes to all those who attended the annual Dinas Powys mini FC Hallowe'en party.

Each year, the attendances have grown, and Liz, the entertainer, kept the children busy all night. Thanks also go to the parents from Dinas Wolves, who spent all afternoon getting the hall ready and then working during the evening serving food and drinks to the revellers. LS

ROTARY EVENT A SUCCESS

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend was founded in 1925 and has an eventful and successful history of youth and charitable activity in the community.

It is part of a world-wide organisation but with strong local involvement.

Rotary, and in particular, The New Generations Committee, is pleased to support the South Wales Special Schools' Soccer Tournament, which was held on October 25, at Heronsbridge School.

This is an annual event which attracts a lot of local support.

The Youth Challenge Football Shield Tournament has been going since 2000 under the leadership and organising skills of Richard Howe, head of design and technology at Heronsbridge.

Richard has been running the tournament for the past 13 years, ably assisted by Rotarian Edgar Burt and the head of physical development, Mr Simon Type.

This year's event included; teams from Maes Gwyn, Aberdare; Greenfield School, Merthyr Tydfil; Ysgol Bryn Castell, Bridgend; Heronsbridge, Bridgend; Ysgol Hendre, Neath; and Headlands School, Penarth; to name but a few.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Mayor Marlene Thomas, braved the cold and stayed for most of the tournament to present the prizes to the winners, Maes Gwyn School, Aberdare, and the runners up prize to Ysgol Bryn Castell.

She also gave prizes to the most improved team, Ysgol Hendre School, Neath and the Fair Play Trophy was won by Headlands School, Penarth.

All players received a medal for taking part in this wonderful competition.

Rotarian president, Rev Mike Lewis, attended early but was whisked away to begin a short break holiday in Lower Slaughter in the Cotswolds. Others on hand to give support were Rotarians Gillian Hale, Gwyn Thomas and Wayne Morgan MBE.

The tournament has been sponsored by Mr Derek Gaynor of Gaynor Group Ltd since it started some 13 years ago. A big thank you and congratulations go to the sponsors, organisers and teams for a sporting spectacular.

Fishing competitions are also held each season, with three schools taking part in each. From April to November, monthly fishing days are held on nearby lakes with groups from Heronsbridge.

Youth Speaks and Young Musician Competitions are held each year for senior schools. There is also a quiz competition and junior youth speaks competition organised for primary schools in the Bridgend area.

The club meets every Monday and details regarding membership can be obtained from Rotarian Mike Lewis. (Google Bridgend Rotary Club).

WM

SUNNY SKIES GRACE VITAL SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP AT LLANDOW KART CLUB

THE penultimate round of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship was graced by some of the best weather South Wales had seen in previous weeks, and allowed the 81-strong entry to perform under sunny skies on a dry circuit.

The event, which doubled as the finale to the expanded four-round Dragon Challenge, was opened as usual by the future of the club, as four Bambinos went through their paces.

Three of the quartet – Brooklyn Thomas, Oliver Thomas and Shayne Clarke – all achieved the gold award, while late entry Matthew Rees attained silver. All are experienced drivers now, and their lap times continue to come down steadily, with only marginal variations between each driver from month to month.

Another large Cadet field was next up, this time with 24 participants split between the Honda and Comer classes. The former was headed by Hugo Holmes who, having two top three results in the heats, came home ahead of Ryan Luscombe and Ross Thomas in the final.

Thomas won the two heats not claimed by Holmes, while Luscombe, Joshua Martin, Tommy Farrell, Alex Rees and Jordan Hurman all featured in the top three during the day. Luscombe's effort, however, was enough to ensure that he shared the Dragon Challenge title with Hurman.

The Comers, despite being a numerically smaller group, produced some of the closest competition of the day, with Tom Rawlings and Lewis Griffiths battling over top spot throughout.

The first two heats were shared, with respective margins of 0.92secs and 0.67secs, before Rawlings secured his place at the top of the podium with wins in both heat three and the final.

Max Fenlon and Kieran Clarke took turns in third place, with the latter being there when it mattered most. Griffiths also came second in the Dragon Challenge standings, behind Tommy Foster.

Six drivers turned out in Honda Junior but, once again, it proved difficult to dislodge Ben Stevens from top spot. Having dominated proceedings pretty much whenever he was on track at Llandow in 2012, Stevens again claimed four race wins, although Tom Ford kept him honest in three of the four encounters, getting closest in the final, where he finished just 0.53secs from victory.

Patrick Hill took second place in the one race that Ford could not pressure Stevens, but it was Thomas Croydon who came through to complete the podium in the final. Despite Stevens' dominance, it was Ford who emerged as Dragon Challenge champion, ahead of Croydon.

Junior TKM and Minimax were again combined, this time providing a 13-strong field that produced some close racing in both catgories.

Despite the names on the entry list, Ryan Edwards ultimately proved unbeatable in TKM, claiming four wins to sweep the day. Scott Morris and Ross Chell shared second places, with the latter coming out on top in the main race, where Yousuf Ashraf, having twice finished third in the heats, also claimed the bottom step of the podium.

Edwards sweep only served to confirm him as Dragon Challenge champion, with Louis Bevan finishing as runner-up.

There was also a clean sweep in Minimax, where Dunkeswell's Sam Stephens remained undefeated. Behind him, Ryan Nutland twice took second in the heats, but was excluded from the final, where Jodie Handford came within a couple of 10ths of catching and passing Stephens.

David Spiller took third place behind the Llandow girl racer, with Ceran Sokhi and Lucas Wynne, who had both claimed top three heat results, completing the finishers.

Unsurprisingly, Stephens' record was enough to ensure that he claimed the Dragon Challenge crown, ahead of runner-up Nutland.

Junior Rotax was a little thinner in terms of numbers, but still produced some interesting competition even after Sam Morgan got into his stride and claimed victory in the last three races.

James Moorcroft and Toby Allen were fixtures throughout in second and third places, except where Rob Ellis, winner of heat one, popped up to claim second spot in race three. Morgan and Moorcroft were later confirmed as joint champions in the Dragon Challenge.

Senior Honda once again proved to be the domain of remaining champion Simon Evans, but he did not have things all his own way for a change.

Having claimed heat one by a couple of seconds, Evans had to give second best to Nick Turley next time around, but was back in winning form in heat three, despite having had to chase down Alex Lewis for much of the race.

Lewis again proved to be his biggest rival in the final, crossing the line just over a second adrift, while Turley claimed third place. Evans, as expected, added the Dragon Challenge trophy to his burgeoning collection, while Danny Griffiths took the runner-up honours.

The Senior Rotax class was graced by a sizeable grid, as 15 karts turned out, including graduates Macaulay Austin and Sam Handford who made their senior debuts.

The newcomers wasted little time in making their mark, with Austin claiming three top three finishes in the heats, including a maiden win third time around. Handford followed him across the line on that occasion, beating earlier heat winners Matthew Dowers and Ashley Lewis in the process.

Come the final, however, it was Dowers to the fore as Austin ran into misfortune. Handford kept up the pressure, eventually taking second place just six-10hs behind the class stalwart, while the visiting Lewis claimed the bottom step of the podium just ahead of David Entwistle.

Lewis was also confirmed as the new Dragon Challenge champion, with Seb Hutchinson finishing second overall.

The 177 class wins were shared between Wayne Stone and Simon Wheeler, with the former coming out on top when it mattered in the final. Nicky Coombs was third.

Stone and Wheeler also finished first and second in the final Dragon Challenge standings.

CRAIG LLEWELLYN

Berlingo brings back memories

Motoring by Tim Saunders

The Citroen Berlingo Multispace.

WHEN I was young I lusted after the Matra Rancho (1977 to 1984), probably the first leisure activity vehicle, inspired by Range Rover – Kim Basinger came later for me.

Driving the Citroen Berlingo Multispace has reignited those memories as it looks similar, if taller than the Rancho.

At first glance the Pope-mobile styled design is not my typical choice of transport. However, it is a family-friendly people mover and a true multi-purpose vehicle – the perfect option for taking my wife, her parents and our baby daughter on a family trip to London.

The sliding rear doors are particularly easy to operate and are great for car parks where there's never enough room to open a normal car door properly without bashing the vehicle next to you. For this reason, strapping Harriett into her baby seat in the Berlingo is so much easier than usual.

The Citroen's boot makes light work of our luggage, consisting of numerous bags and a pushchair.

It's a marvellous family vehicle with plenty of cubby holes throughout as well as helpful overhead storage above the boot as you can see from the video at testdrives.biz. And there's a high driving position, too.

While at first the seats seem pretty comfortable, over a long journey they could be more supportive.

During our motorway jaunt Caroline's mum wants to get something from the boot and I am fully expecting to have to stop, but she discovers that the boot cover can be lifted from inside. The designers have really thought about the design of this vehicle.

Inside, occupants are treated to a spacious and snazzy interior with a dash of blue on the fabrics, complimenting the door trims and giving a bright and bubbly feel, which is so often lacking in the clinical interiors of today. The dashboard is both user-friendly and funky. Copious amounts of glass ensure that it's light and airy inside.

The handbrake is right next to the driver's seat, a bit too close for comfort but you get used to it after a while. Its gutsy 1.6-litre, 90bhp diesel engine can cover more than 600 miles with its 60-litre tank. While the five-speed box is perfectly adequate I do wonder whether a sixth gear might further improve economy.

Rear passengers get their own roof mounted air vents and fan control. During a balmy summer's day the air conditioning makes for a much more pleasant environment.

From the outside the Berlingo Multispace is surprisingly compact when you consider the vast expanse of room inside. The mammoth tailgate makes a great shelter from the rain – in fact it is easy to imagine sitting on the edge of the boot and having a civilised picnic, with table, all under cover.

The downside is that the driver has to remember to leave space behind them in order to access the boot, making roadside parking an issue.

When driving, it does feel a little remote and cumbersome, particularly on manoeuvring to overtake. When the driver looks over their right shoulder, to check all is clear, their vision is impeded by the centre pillar, so extra care is required. There's no cruise control for motorway travelling either.

And if fifth gear is engaged at 30mph the vehicle shudders, resulting in a rattle from the dash.

Parkers, the car experts, say: *"Spacious, practical and brimming with family-friendly features, the Berlingo Multispace is a five-seat people carrier for buyers on a budget.*

"It sits between the cheaper Xsara Picasso and stylish C4 Picasso in the Citroen range but, unlike its predecessor, is no longer based on a van. Instead, it uses car underpinnings, is comfortable and surprisingly good to drive as a result."

Similar to variants from both Fiat and Peugeot, which are also unconventionally styled, these vehicles are popular with families, but the Citroen is particularly so because of its incredibly well-designed interior, keen price and strong economy.

Citroen Berlingo Multispace VTR HDi 90.

New price range: £12,795 - £16,795.

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Show jumpers benefit from grant scheme

A SHOW jumping club in the Vale is hoping to ride off the back of Team GB's success at London 2012 and help inspire a new generation to excel in the sport.

The 'British Show Jumping Area 35' club has been based at Spring Meadows in Llandow for several years, but following a £1,500 grant from the Community Chest scheme they are now offering new coaching sessions that will help riders of all ages reach their potential.

Among the 65 medals won by Team GB at this summer's Olympics was a first show jumping gold in 60 years, and the impact has been felt in the rural Vale as local horse owners have been contacting the club to find out how they can train their horses and get involved.

Charlotte Edwards, from Spring Meadows, said: "We've been inundated with enquiries since the Olympics and this Community Chest grant will really help us to provide high level training on a regular basis.

"We are using a UKCC level 3 coach, which would be out of the question for many members, and to have an indoor facility during the winter is just a dream. There is a lot of hidden talent in the Vale and these coaching sessions will help to unearth and encourage that talent."

Riders aged from 10 and above are welcome at the sessions, which take place on various days during the week, and potential club members need to own their own horse.

Coun Gwyn John, the Vale Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "The Vale has a strong background in horse riding, with successful racing trainers basing themselves here such as Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan.

"It is fantastic news that the show jumping club are able to offer these new sessions with the support of the Community Chest scheme, and I hope that local horse owners of all ages make the most of this excellent opportunity."

A total amount of £28,408.44 was awarded in the latest round of Community Chest grants in the Vale, with the funding pot including £1,190.45 to help Penarth Town AFC set up a new under-13s junior football team, £1,484.64 for 'Fundamental Sports' to develop multisport sessions, and £1,500 for the Penarth and District Scout Group to introduce youngsters to water sports activities.

To discuss a potential Community Chest application for your sports club or organisation, call the Vale Council's sports and play development manager Karen Davies on 01446 704793.

You can also find out more at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay, and keep up to date with local community sports news by following: @valesportsnews on Twitter.

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GEM sport

Local boys in 'black belt' grading test

CONGRATULATIONS to Liam Sloan, Harvey Stockford and Joseph Davies, who recently undertook a very challenging black belt grading test to achieve the rank of 1st Dan Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

The TAGB National Black Belt grading took place on October 19 in Bristol and put students through their paces to demonstrate their technical abilities, as well as their pattern knowledge, application of self-defense, theory of Tae Kwon Do and sparring skills.

The students were examined by a panel of masters and senior members of the TAGB in what proved to be an extremely technically and physically demanding grading.

All three boys represented their school and instructor in the very best light, and are true role models and inspiration for other students at the club by becoming the first ever black belts at the Neil Gimbel Tae Kwon Do school.

The years of dedication, hard training and commitment have paid off; well done, boys, for this great achievement!

For more information about Tae Kwon Do in Cowbridge, contact Neil Gimbel on: 07855487404 or visit neil-gimbel-tkd.blogspot.com.

NG

Mora and Eira shine at training camp

Eira Culverwell.

Mora Garside.

COWBRIDGE Karate Club recently held its bi-annual residential training camp at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens.

Students are put through hard physical exercises and are tested on their technique and application while demonstrating respect in the karate way.

Two students were excellent: Eira Culverwell (29) who achieved Sensei status, black belt third dan and Mora Garside (50), who achieved Sempei status, black belt first dan.

Eira was exceptional, fighting 30 continuous fights against dan grades from first dan to fifth dan. She has trained with many local masters, including a period in Japan, the home of traditional karate.

Mora Garside is a teacher at the local Cowbridge Comprehensive and she has achieved a well respected status in the club and country.

Cowbridge Karate Jutsu Kai have many juniors and seniors and Mora is the oldest qualifying first dan.

Everyone at the club is extremely proud of both of them and all the other students that attended the training camp. **SS**

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Cowbridge darts round-up

IN all three venues hosting the Men's Doubles Knock-out competition, there were many close games with most going all the way, ending 2-1.

At the Farmers Arms, Cedric Simmonite & Mark Duige (Edmondes 'A') fought back to 1-1 against Steve Newton & Anthony Groves (Llanharry) when Simmonite hit a new season record 3 dart highest out of 116, only to eventually lose 1-2.

Steve Newton & Anthony Groves (Llanharry) then went on to lose 1-2 against Bert Noyle & Bill Foulds (Cross Inn), the night's winners.

At the Edmondes Arms the winners were Simon Reader & John Izzard (Hare & Hounds) and Dai Thomas & Jonathan Cheal (Edmondes 'B'), while at the Cross Inn the final pair making up the semi-final line-up were Martin Thomas & Mathew Pay (Edmondes 'B').

Coming up on November 6 are the early round matches in the mens and ladies singles knock out competitions. A number of tight matches are again expected.

All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information please e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@google mail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

RM

'Wrong' horse wins

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan had two runners – Wings Of Smoke and Geminus – in the handicap hurdle at Exeter and the latter, who was bidding for a four-timer having won its last three races in good style, was made a joint 5-1 favourite.

However, Wings Of Smoke, a seven-year-old grey gelding, who was burdened with top weight of 11st,12lbs, and ridden by Michael Byrne, left his stable companion trailing in his wake when winning by a length from Swift Chap at odds of 11-1.

The other joint favourite What Er Say was a further neck away in third place with Geminus finishing eighth of the fourteen starters.

Twenty-four hours earlier at Plumpton, Vaughan's Truckers Benefit, partnered by Richard Johnson, was successful at odds of 6-1.

HOLD COURT

Hold Court trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan won the opening novices hurdle at Ludlow last Thursday.

Confidently ridden by Paul Moloney five-year-old Hold Court won by six lengths from Drum Valley and went off the 13-8 favourite.

Williams said: "He will improve from that run and could go to Cheltenham on November 16. He is a horse who had sore shins at the end of last year and I wanted him to run somewhere where they go a good gallop because he can pull it out He is a horse we like an awful lot."

Welsh jockey Bradley Gibbs won the Amateur Jockeys Association Amateur Riders Handicap Chase on the Dai Rees trained Changing Lanes.

BRIAN LEE

COWBRIDGE RUGBY ROUND-UP

Under-9s shine in win

COWBRIDGE under-9s put in an excellent performance against Rhiwbina winning by 8 tries to 5.

Cowbridge started the match well with the elusive running of Harry Treharne and Ruben Davies proving difficult for Rhiwbina to contain. Cowbridge ended this period 3-2 in front with Harry scoring two, one after some fine teamwork, and Ruben also crossing the whitewash.

The off-loading work practiced in training this week was very evident in Cowbridge's play, creating some holes for the runners to exploit. This was complimented with some resilient and brave defence, resulting in some minor bumps and bruises suffered for the cause, which ensured Cowbridge kept a clean sheet in the second period. Tries by Robbie Brown, who was his usual robust self, and Steffan Evans edged the period 2-0 for Cowbridge.

As rain fell quarter 3 was a very tight affair with the only score coming from Alfie Rees which was just reward following several good runs which gained valuable territory for the team.

Quarter 4 saw the rain ease but cold hands and bodies and some player rotation saw Cowbridge fall away a little. However, some credit should go to Rhiwbina who scored three good tries in response to two outstanding efforts from the ever-reliable Ruben Davies who waltzed his way passed numerous defences on two mesmerising runs.

Again this week there was great team spirit and commitment shown by all the boys with Robbie Brown, Will Ryan, Ruben Davies, Harry Treharne, Iolo Davies, Finlay Brace and Steffan Evans all showing up strongly in defence. This was a very good performance with the coaches delighted that some of the training is being put into practice on match days and even on cold wet days the boys are enjoying their rugby.

Squad: Harry Treharne, Ruben Davies, Will Ryan, Steffan Evans, Ethan Francis, Lewys Robins, Iolo Davies, Tom Collingbridge, Archie Lloyd, Finlay Ball, Robbie Brown, Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, James Jones, Ollie Jones and Akka Guwy.

MF

'Three out of four ain't bad' for the under-7s

COWBRIDGE under-7s travelled to Rhiwbina, the club where Wales captain Sam Warburton began his rugby career, and despite facing formidable opponents Cowbridge managed to win three games out of four.

Team 1 mounted the pressure from the kick off, with great runs from Joe Davies and James Collingridge allowing James Lord to score two tries in succession thanks to his good running in support.

Rhiwbina fought back to bring the scores level but could do nothing to stop Joe Arentsen zigzagging through the defence to restore the lead for Cowbridge.

A period of sustained pressure forced Rhiwbina to turn the ball over and James Collingridge quickly capitalised with a try.

George Edgell then scored in the corner making it 5-2 to Cowbridge at half time. A couple of missed tags allowed Rhiwbina to claw back into the game with a try but Cowbridge built a commanding lead with a great solo effort from George from the restart, and another great pick up from James Collingridge. Final score 4-7 to Cowbridge.

Team 1's second match did not display the effective tagging the whole team had shown in the first match and it cost them the victory in what was a keenly contested game.

Good pressure and passing in the first few minutes led to two quick tries from James Lord and James Collingridge but Rhiwbina quickly levelled the scores. Joe Arentsen darted to the line to give Cowbridge the lead, but then the mistakes began, allowing Rhiwbina to run in three tries.

In the final third of the match Cowbridge showed great determination, with James Collingridge powering to the line with a good solo effort, and James Lord's pace outwitting the Rhiwbina defence twice to give him his hat trick. Final score 8-6 to Rhiwbina.

Team 2 started slowly, allowing Rhiwbina to score with their first possession. Not deterred by this, Cowbridge fought back with two quick tries from the ever reliable Osian Bruce.

The strong Rhiwbina team fought back with their own scores, only for Sam Sheppard and Osian to score, to give them the lead at half time.

Some excellent tagging by Henry Whitehouse, Ned Rees and Mabli Davies turned the ball over, allowing tries from Sam Jackson and Will Brennan, along with two more from the try machine Osian, to make the final score 9-7.

In the second game, Cowbridge were up against it again conceding early; however tries from Osian and Henry Pugh brought the scores level at half time in a tough encounter.

Sam Sheppard opened the scoring in the second half, quickly followed by two more from Osian. Rhiwbina hit back, but a great solo effort from Henry Whitehouse kept the lead.

More good tagging allowed Cowbridge possession for Sam Sheppard and Osian to complete Cowbridge's scoring. A late Rhiwbina try just before full time made it 8-6 to the visitors.

PS

Lions grab point against Penarth

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-11s Lions welcomed Penarth Town on Saturday in a very entertaining game.

Llantwit went in at half time 2-0 down but Ewan Wheatley and Jon Greys team turned it around in the second half, fighting back to earn a 2-2 draw with a wonder left foot strike from Connor Booker and then Josh Grey levelling the score for Llantwit

Llantwit under-13A had a tough trip to Dinas Powys and were immediately under the cosh when they conceded a very soft goal early in the first half to give Dinas encouragement and hope of a first ever point against Llantwit.

Llantwit eventually took one of the many chances they created when Sam Snaith rose highest to nod in an equaliser before half time.

The second half continued in the same vein but it required a last minute penalty award for Llantwit to settle the game, with Cole Baker slotting the winning goal.

SC

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